HE AMERICAN

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THE AMERICAN.

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ELMIRA, N. Y., December 26, 1881.

George F. fraskell, Manager for State, New York Life Insurance Company.

DEAR SIR: -- I have this day made settlement through you with the New York Life Insurance Company, on my policy, No. 85,646, which I took ten years ago on the my policy, No. 85,040, which I trok ten years ago on the "ten-year dividend plan." I have paid on the ten thousand dollars a total of premiums amounting to \$4,782.00, and receive as the result of Tontine profits the sum of \$5,593.00 in cash, this being \$811.00 more than I have paid, and the insurance has not cost me anything. This is to me so satisfactory that you can write me for another \$10,000 policy, and I will try Tontine again.

Yours, truly,

S. C. GRAY.

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presented to me I have decided to take paid-up insurance for full amount of \$5,000, and withdraw my accumulated surplus in cash of \$759.34.

Looking over the results of this investment, I find that having paid to your company in total \$2,256 I am receiving now nearly thirty-four per cent. of my money, my paid-up policy costing me but \$1,496.66, on which the annual dividends will represent about three per cent.

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THE AMERICAN

VOL. VI.-NO. 165.

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1883.

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CONTRIBUTORS TO "THE AMERICAN."

The present issue completes the third year and sixth volume of THE AMERICAN. The next number will begin the fourth year and the seventh volume. Among those who have contributed during the past six months have been:

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George W. Allen, Philadelphia;
A. S. Bolles, University of Pennsylvania;
J. R. Bridge, Cambridge, Mass.;
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REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

WE are glad to learn from Canada that Mr. GRESHAM, our Postmaster-General, has been making inquiries as to the workings of the system of post-office savings-banks which the people of the Dominion possess. It indicates that the Postmaster-General has in mind plans to make his department still more useful to the public, without going outside the lines which should restrict Government action. A post-office savings-bank is not open to the serious objections which apply to a parcels post. It is not a mere convenience for the public, but a means of promoting habits of providence and forethought among the people. At present, the great majority of the American people have no access to any kind of savings institution. It is altogether impossible for private corporations of this class to extend their facilities to more than the fraction of our people who live in cities and large towns. Unless the Government authorizes the connection of savings-banks with its post-offices, the habit of saving can be cultivated only through the withdrawal of sums very large in the aggregate from the circulation. Even now we have too much of this hoarding of money among our less intelligent and especially our foreign population. A savings-bank owned and controlled by the Government, although it offered but a small interest on deposits, would make our governmental system a visible beneficence to myriads of people who now know it only as a letter-carrier.

We are well aware of the difficulty which attaches to the question of investments. The mistake was made in not establishing these savingsbanks at the close of the war, when the savings of the poorer classes could have been invested in the bonds in which the debt was funded. Our financiers unhappily had their eyes on the great capital of the money market, rather than on the small accumulations of the less affluent. Since the payment of debt has gone forward so rapidly, and the funded bonds command a premium, the management of savings-banks by the Government has become more difficult, but the difficulty is not insurmountable. Other securities, carefully selected, would be taken instead of United States bonds.

The month of September showed so heavy a reduction in the public debt of the United States as to convince the doubters that there is still a large balance applicable to the payment of the bonds, and that the financial question must very soon be solidly and weightily considered.

By the Treasury's statement of its cash account in comparison with that of September 1st, the reduction amounted to \$14,707,229.11, and the lists of the debt outstanding show that there was an actual cancellation of bonds to the amount of over twelve and a quarter millions (\$12,261,350). Since the 1st of July, the amount of outstanding bonds has been reduced over twenty-one and a half millions (\$21,611,550), while the available cash balance in the Treasury has risen from \$151,118,346 to \$158,546,006, or nearly seven and a half millions. This, then, shows the rate at which we are proceeding; in the first quarter of the fiscal year, the actual decrease of bonds and increase of net cash in the Treasury make a total of more than twenty-nine millions of dollars, or one hundred and sixteen millions a year. This entirely bears out what was predicted in these columns months ago; and we shall not be surprised to see the reduction for the next three quarters going at a more rapid rate than during the quarter which is ended.

THE reduction of the debt by nearly fifteen millions last month reminds us once more of the disadvantages which accompany this rapid cancellation of the bonds. All the three and a half per cents. have been called in. The three per cents. amount to about three hundred millions of dollars, and will not last more than two years at present rates. It is not merely a question of what shall be done next, but of what effect on our circulation of currency will be produced by this extinction of debt. A very large amount of these three per cents. are held by the Treasury for the banks as security for their note circulation, and the bonds which bear a higher rate of interest are so dear that no bank can afford to purchase them for this use. The time cannot be distant when the national banking laws will have to be altered to meet this emergency; but the next Congress is not likely to do anything that may tend to perpetuate that system of banking. If anything is done, it is most likely to be a removal of those restrictions on State banking which give the national banks a monopoly of the issue of paper money. The districts in which the Democratic party is strongest are those that have suffered the most from the existence of those restrictions, as they are thus debarred from supplying themselves with a local paper currency, such as they enjoyed before the war. It is true that the old paper money was very unsafe, but it was "better than nothing," and it did enable new communities to start that societary circulation by which communities became rich enough to afford a safe paper money.

The Boston Advertiser proposes that the Government shall pay off the three per cents. at the rate of thirty-five millions a year, so as to carry their extinction over the whole period before the bonds of 1891 will become redeemable. It also proposes to use the rest of the surplus in the cancellation of the Treasury notes. Of these, some fifty millions are in the Treasury and seventy-five millions are held by the banks; and these one hundred and twenty-five millions it thinks might be redeemed "without reducing by a penny the amount of money in circulation." We think this phrase, "the amount of money in circulation," contains an ambiguity which misleads our contemporary. The Treasury notes held by the Treasury and by the banks are as much a part of the currency as is the gold held by either, and their obliteration from existence would be a very serious and disastrous contraction of the currency. It is not by the contraction, but more probably by the expansion, of our national notes that the currency is likely to be changed. As fast as the payment of the bonds forces a contraction of the national-bank circulation, the vacuum will be supplied, either by the notes of State banks or by those of the national treasury. Which of the two kinds of money is the more of "a public peril?"

The surplus revenue in the national treasury is not properly a source of weakness, but of strength. It is not troublesome, except to awkward

financiers; under a sound policy, it would be of the greatest value and benefit to the country. And it is not something to be "got rid of," but to be wisely and discreetly used.

WE are not surprised to learn that the National Wool-Growers' Association through its executive board protests against the reduction of the duties on foreign wool, and asks their restoration to the old rates. In the reduction effected by the last Congress, the officers of the Association co-operated with those of the Wool-Manufacturers' Association in fixing the new rates of duty. The executive board express their emphatic disapproval, and direct their officers to aid in having the mistake corrected. The results of the change, together with the reduction of duties on woollens, have been most unfortunate. The manufacturers of woollens were assured that with the reduction of duties on the raw material they would enjoy great prosperity through increased facility for export. As a matter of fact, they are in a plight not any better than in 1873 and the years of depression which followed. More mills are running on half-time or have suspended than for years past. On the other hand, the producers of wool are discouraged from extending and improving their product, by the certainty that they will encounter the competition of Europe and of Australia whenever the wool market abroad is overstocked. The decade, 1850-60, saw as good as no increase in the number of our sheep. The two following decades have witnessed such an increase in quantity and improvement in quality as promises to give us the first place among the nations in this regard. A return to the policy of 1850-60 will not cause a mere stagnation; it must produce a great retrogression, as did the removal of duties on foreign wool in 1816, when imported sheep of the finest breeds were sold for slaughter at a dollar each.

SENATOR BLAIR'S much-enduring committee continues to give audience to all who think they have found the clue to the troubles of capital and labor. Mr. Joseph Medill, of the Chicago Tribune, assures the Committee that the root of the difficulty is the intemperance of the working classes. He estimates their annual consumption of intoxicants at four hundred million dollars, and that of tobacco at ten million dollars, or "enough to furnish everyone in this country with a comfortable home." Mr. MEDILL did not give these figures on his own authority, but on that of "those who have studied the question." He took them, we presume, from some "Temperance Manual" in which they may have been doing duty for years past. The especial friends of the Temperance cause, however, are very poor statisticians. They jump to inferences and distinctions which their data do not warrant. Nobody can tell how much of the money spent on intoxicating drink comes from the working classes, and we doubt if anyone knows even the amount thus spent by all classes. The returns of the tax paid to the Government do not give this information. They show only the wholesale price of ale, beer and whiskey,-not what the saloons receive. Nor is all the liquor thus manufactured and taxed used as a beverage. Very much is used as a medicinal lotion, or for some similar purpose; a large share is exported. But even the figures given do not warrant the inference drawn. This large sum is much less than eight dollars a head of the American people, and it is not possible to house people in "comfortable homes" at that figure.

Another witness, an oil producer, insisted on the wickedness of the monopoly possessed by the Standard Oil Company, which can raise or lower the price of illuminating oil at its pleasure. He will oblige the people of this Commonwealth, if he will show how the monopoly may be broken or the Company forced to pay its share of the expenses of the State Government. Pennsylvania's true course doubtless was to impose a royalty upon every barrel of oil taken from the soil of the State; and yet this is a step from which all parties in the Legislature have apparently shrunk, and which it may now be too late to take.

WHILE Judge Lowell in Massachusetts decides that the law for the exclusion of Chinese laborers cannot be construed to apply to British subjects, Judge Field in California decides exactly the opposite, and refuses to allow Hong-Kong coolies to enter the country. It is generally a duty to assume that a judge is governed by no unworthy motive in the interpretation of the law. But Judge Field has given so many

evidences of his reckless eagerness to secure the Democratic nomination to the Presidency, that his decisions are open to just suspicion whenever they may have a political bearing. In this case, he seems to be bidding for the support of the Pacific Coast, by raising the barrier against the Mongolian immigrant a little higher than Congress ventured to place it. But if the Irish element in the Democratic party are able to see farther than the end of their own noses they will feel no gratitude to Mr. FIELD. Should the United States claim the right to shut out British subjects of any class from America, the British Government will be free to exclude from its territory American citizens of any kind it may find troublesome. As a matter of course, the Irish-Americans would be the first to bear the brunt of the new policy. So long as they did not accept naturalization in America, they would be free to return; the instant that they accepted American citizenship, and its immunities from political arrest and imprisonment, they would forfeit the right to set foot on their native soil.

THE National Convention of Colored Men, which has been in session at Louisville, was not the most quiet assembly of the year, but it did its work in good shape and adopted resolutions which speak well for their authors. The Convention very properly abstained from any expression of opinion on purely political topics; it did not identify itself with any party. It asked for no class legislation, while protesting against the retention of such legislation in the case of the army. But it called attention to the fact that the colored people in the Southern States almost without exception "are denied justice in the courts, denied the fruits of their honest labor, defrauded of their political rights at the ballot-box, shut out from learning trades, cheated out of their civil rights by inn-keepers and common carriers, and left an inadequate opportunity for education and general improvement." They ask that "the credit and mortgage system be abolished," and with it the chaingang system of the Southern prisons, that restrictions which exclude the colored people from trades and employment "in nearly every State in the Union" be removed, and that Congress appropriate seven millions in aid of the public schools of the Southern States. Thus far, public opinion will go with the Convention with hardly any division. But when it urges that Congress pay the losses of the depositors in the Freedmen's Savings-Bank it touches a matter in which there neither has been nor will be any such unanimity.

The representatives of forty-one trade-unions in the State of New Jersey have been considering the labor problem, and have voted to urge the adoption of some plan of arbitration to prevent strikes. Our own State stands alone in having taken steps to facilitate and legalize arbitration, just as she took the lead in acknowledging the lawfulness of trade-unions. The Democrats of Massachusetts ask for a similar law to aid arbitration.

The New Jersey workmen also ask that the prisons and penitentaries of the State be made literally self-supporting, through the convicts being employed to produce just those articles of food, clothing, furniture, etc., which are needed for use in the establishment. We believe this was suggested first in The American as an arrangement which would both keep the convict from becoming a burden to society and yet prevent the State from taking its slaves into the labor market. Of course, it is not so easy to do this as it would be to employ them in making shoes, or barrels, or shovels. But it would be made easier, if our prison system were organized on the principles introduced by Sir Walter Crofton into the prisons of Ireland, and now adopted in Denmark and other parts of the continent of Europe. In that system, the prisoner spends the second third of his sentence at farm labor on a prison farm in an open plain.

Our Free Trade friends are very courageous. Undeterred by the defeat of every cause which has enlisted a "literary bureau" in its service, their convention at St. Louis decided to set up a bureau for the promotion of Free Trade opinions. It is quite true that there was nothing else for them to do. To meet, debate, and pass resolutions which fall on deaf ears, because they touch in no way on the actual life of the American people, has become too monotonous for repetition. As they never have anything fresh to say in their addresses and resolutions, and as their neat little aphorisms have been heard a hundred times

already, it was no wonder that they tried to break out in a fresh spot and landed in a bureau for the manufacture of public opinion. As a result, they will bring every Free Trade editor in America under suspicion as to the originality of his editorials.

THE matter of determining the electors who shall choose delegates to party conventions in primary meeting or caucus, is one of the most difficult in our politics. It is suggested by Mr. Sherman S. Rogers that the enrolment of the voters of the party shall be made at the elections themselves, every person who votes the party ticket or the bulk of it being offered the opportunity of enrolment at that time. We suggest that it would be still better to have the enrolment made by election officials acting under oath, and liable to the penalties usual in such cases for any breach of good faith. This would prevent a voter from enrolling himself in the ranks of both parties, while it would not compel anyone to disclose his party allegiance, unless he chose to do so. He would forfeit nothing by his silence, except the right to vote at the party primaries, and this is not much valued by the class of citizens that dislike a public avowal of their party position. That this class is a small one, and that, at any rate, those belonging to it are unwilling to join in the primary elections, obviate the objection that the plan here suggested would tend even to further discourage citizens from primary action. Nor would the State be undertaking more than concerns it in facilitating this enrolment. It is to the public interest that nominations be made by the largest possible body of voters, and not by the elect few who manage matters in the interest of their clique. Other modes of enrolment restrain voters from asserting their rights within the party, by requiring attendance on some occasion which may not be convenient. In many States-our own for instance,-there is no enrolment; but where there is any it were better to make it public and

THE Democrats and the Greenbackers of Massachusetts agree in renominating Mr. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER for the Governorship of the State. Seldom in our politics is a single personal issue so dominant in even a State election. To re-elect Mr. Butler, there are gathered together a great and motley host who agree neither with him nor with each other. To defeat him, the Republicans select the man whose personal position best promises to keep the party together, and put him on a platform whose substance is that Mr. BUTLER is not the right man to govern Massachusetts. The attitude of both parties is a compliment to the force of a personality which might have been a power for good of the same order as Mr. GLADSTONE, if the man had been kept by his conscience sensitive to high motives. That Mr. BUTLER has been the reverse of this, that he has sacrificed truth, principle and personal consistency to his personal success, is written on the very face of his record. It is not Republicans only who distrust him, as Mr. BAYARD's expressions show.

It is proper to say, with reference to the expressions concerning General Butler attributed to Senator Bayard, that he has disowned the alleged "interview" almost entirely, though he adds some remarks amounting to very nearly as complete a disapproval of the Massachusetts freebooter. He is also credited with saying in a newspaper published at his home, Wilmington, that nothing ever said by him "could possibly be construed into an approval or toleration of General Butler's political action, or a willingness to see public power entrusted to his hands."

The Democrats of Boston seem to be laying their plans to get a majority for General Butler without reference to the way the voting goes. The Democratic mayor did not send in the list of election officers until the very last day on which the appointment could be made. When it was approved and published, it appeared that instead of nominating as usual those Republicans whose names had been suggested by the local associations he had made a new list containing the names of non-residents, Butler Republicans, and respectables who can be depended upon not to serve. The control of the voting lists in several important wards will be entirely in Democratic hands. We do not think that this kind of strategy will hurt the Republicans. It is too clever not to arouse indignation at its meanness.

In New York, the Democrats have carried out their programme of peace and conciliation. The Tammany Hall and Irving Hall delegates were admitted to the State Convention on the same terms as the County Democracy, the delegation from New York City being divided between the three factions. With this arrangement the Tammany people professed to be dissatisfied, and voted against it on the ground that Tammany alone represented the Democracy of the metropolis. On the other hand, the County Democracy voted for this arrangement, thus abandoning their claim to represent the whole party. These two votes express the situation. Mr. Kelly returns to the party triumphantly. Those who profess to hate him, and who opposed him two years ago, are under orders to conciliate him to the utmost. All the rest of the party unite in according him a recognition to which he has no just claim. He accepts it under protest that it should be more ample to be in keeping with his merits.

MR. CHAPIN, who presided over the Convention and whom it nominated to the Comptrollership, had the wit to see that the Democracy of New York needs something more than a reconciliation with Mr. John Kelly, if it is to carry the State. The success of last November, he knows, was due to Republican votes, and to Republican acquiescence in defeat, rather than elect Mr. Folger. So Mr. Chapin spoke soothingly of the Republicans: "They are Americans, like ourselves. The party of Lincoln and of Sumner, of Seward, of Chase and of Greeley, still holds within its ranks its full share of the patriotism and intelligence of the nation." His speech is said to have shot over the heads of the Convention. It was meant to do so. Mr. Chapin was aiming to secure the attention of those who were not at Buffalo, either personally or by representative.

The platform is occupied chiefly with State matters, and on several points, such as the reform of the State's civil service, the party have a right to be proud of the results of the last session of the Legislature. On national matters they reaffirm the platform of a year ago, adding a denunciation of "the proposition that the people should be taxed to raise a surplus fund for the Federal Government to distribute among the States," a proposal which, so far as we are aware, no one has made.

In Brooklyn, the better class of Democrats are moving to secure the re-election of Mayor Low. It was to a combination of such Democrats with the young men of the Republican party that Mr. Low owed his nomination by the Republicans and his election by the people, two years ago. The hopes which grew out of this coalition have been fulfilled in every particular. The city has enjoyed a thoroughly good and an altogether unpartisan government. Brooklyn has been lifted from its former place among the worst governed cities in the country to a proud pre-eminence as the best governed. But much remains to be done to secure the fruits of victory, and as no other man excites the confidence which the people repose in Mr. Low it is safe to say that the people of Brooklyn do not mean to see him displaced just yet.

The Republican Convention of Maryland presents that party and its candidates to the State as the representatives of those reforms which the Democratic Convention refused to entertain and for which the people are asking. It will be a change, indeed, if Maryland is carried by the Republicans. But every election for some time past has shown a decreasing Democratic majority. The dissatisfaction within the party has grown more serious since the last election, when the Republicans elected two Congressmen and all but secured a third. There is a genuine revolt of old-time Democrats against the leaders who have abused their trust. People who were "Secesh" all through the war have become decided Republicans. Others who have not severed their party allegiance finally are in the mood in which so many Republicans in the Northern States were last November. Even if the Republicans are not successful, there certainly will be a marked reduction of the Democratic majority.

IF Mr. DEZENDORF has not misunderstood President ARTHUR, the question of Mr. Mahone's relations with the Republican party is much more serious than has been supposed. From more than one quarter we have heard that some kind of a bargain had been effected between Mr. Mahone and the Republican Senators. But this might very well have

been an inference from the fact that the Virginia Senator found it to his interest in a general way to act with the Republican rather than the Democratic side of the Senate. Nobody who had a right to know all the circumstances made himself responsible for the statement that a bargain had been made. But Mr. DEZENDORF declares that Mr. ARTHUR told him of a contract between the Republican caucus and Mr. MAHONE, by virtue of which the Senator was to vote with the Republicans and to control the Government "patronage" in Virginia. This is a very serious statement. If it be false, the Republican Senators owe the country a prompt and explicit denial. If it be true,-and we have nothing except the character and position of many of these Senators to suggest a doubt of it,-then these representatives of the party have taken a step whose consequences may prove most serious. There are plenty of Republicans, who know that it takes a great many kinds of people to make up a political party, who yet cannot conceive of a party large enough to contain both themselves and Mr. MAHONE.

THE election in Ohio will take place on Tuesday of next week, and nothing will determine the actual result but the counting of the ballots. In spite of all that has been said as to the certainties of Republican success and the extreme demoralization amongst the Democrats, the facts are that the issue is uncertain. Two unknown quantities appear in the problem,-the vote for the Prohibition candidates, and the vote of that free-liquor German element which had usually been Republican previous to 1882, but which abandoned that side in that year and swept the State into Democratic hands. There is the best evidence that the Democratic leaders in Ohio believe in their prospects of success, and there are evidences on the other hand that the Republican leaders are regarding election day with anxiety. It may be, of course, that out of so confused a situation there may come a very unexpected result, and that as one form of this the Republican majority may be a large one; but we shall not be surprised to see it small, or even below the zero figure, thus adding to the already doubtful national situation. The advocates of Prohibition are likely to stick to their own ticket, and any sort of freeliquor voters can usually find the Democratic side of the fence most attractive.

THE overgrown boy who is called King of Spain has allowed himself to be used by Germany to stir up an excitement in Paris. The offer of a colonelcy in a regiment of Uhlans which was sprung upon Alfonso by the Emperor does not seem to have excited any reflection in him beyond a childish gratification at the offer and an unwillingness to give offence by a refusal. At his subsequent visit to Paris, he found the French in a state of special irritation. The insults of the Nord-Deutsche Zeitung were a matter of but yesterday; the dedication of the great statue, "Germania," on the left bank of the Rhine was proceeding, and involved a defiance of French hopes to make the great river a national boundary. It was easy enough for a few mischief-makers to stir up the mob to insult "le roi Uhlan;" and all the studied courtesies of President Grevy could not efface the bad impression produced by the howling taunts of the Parisians. France has lost a point in diplomacy by this bit of blundering, and if we are not mistaken the blunder and the loss were counted upon in Germany.

JAPAN has published her commercial statistics for 1881, which show an improvement in the balance of trade, though still far from being satisfactory. The exports amounted to \$30,219,400, the imports to \$30,-797,406, being an excess of \$578,006 in imports. Three years before, the excess was \$7,075,000, and the change has been effected by a decline in imports almost equal to the increase in exports. The truth is that Japan has ceased to increase her indebtedness for foreign commodities, because she has become too poor to pay for them. She has been drained of her money to such an extent that she has neither gold nor silver to pay large balances. She can buy only about as much as she manages to sell. It may be said that this confirms the Free Trade maxim that "commodities are paid for with commodities." If that maxim be true, it should have begun to apply to Japan before the country was drained of its money. But when we look at Japan's returns of her trade with different countries we wonder what becomes of the maxim. Great Britain sells to Japan \$16,386,329 worth of goods, and buys

only \$3,515,459 worth. The United States sell only \$1,793,357 worth, and buy \$10,056,738 worth. France sells \$3,192,765 worth, and buys \$8,332,562. Is this "paying for commodities with commodities"?

[See "News Summary," page 413.]

THE FORKS OF THE ROAD.

THE "public prints" find it impossible to avoid the discussion of national finance. It is a subject that will not be avoided or laid aside to a more convenient season. Even the most reluctant are drawn to its consideration, and those who are unprepared for it find themselves compelled to make preparation in haste.

The subject is so exigent because it now becomes evident that the forks of the road are near at hand. A decision cannot be very much larger postponed as to which road shall be taken. The surplus of the national revenues continues very large. We were told by some wise calculators six months ago that it would be destroyed entirely by the revision of the tariff, the changes in the internal taxes, and the increase of pension payments; but as a matter of fact none of these causes have so operated. The revisions of the duties and the taxes have not greatly reduced the revenues, and the pension payments, instead of increasing, have passed their highest point and are now diminishing. It had been estimated, in these columns and elsewhere, that the surplus applicable to debt payment would be during this fiscal year not less than one hundred millions of dollars, and it is now evident from the experience of the three months past that it will be a fifth greater than that. The three and a half per cent. bonds have been entirely paid, and the three per cents. are now disappearing. They alone remain redeemable; and yet we are eight years distant from 1891, when the next fall in. What other road than the one we are now travelling is to be taken?

Up to this time, no new light has been thrown upon the case by the increase of discussion. The newspapers that have newly taken up the subject, under the sense that it is imminent and exigent, and must be discussed, have made no suggestions of practical value. Some have gravely advised that the money should be used in one way or another, mentioning the various public purposes to which it might be put. Others—and it must be admitted that their plan commands a greater respect than that of preventing surplus by increasing expenditure,—propose to cancel the "greenback" circulation, and so employ three hundred and forty-six millions of the surplus.

Something is gained, however, by the general admission of the prime facts. To see that there continues to be a revenue greater than the ordinary expenditures, and that this excess will soon dispose of the now redeemable bonds,—to see that even the payment of these bonds so quickly is a questionable proceeding, since it greatly affects the bank circulation and must cause a contraction of the public currency,—to see that the whole subject is one not to be either postponed or trifled with,—this is a step toward a serious and, we hope, a wise attempt at solving the problem.

Substantially, the courses that may be adopted are not different now from those heretofore pointed out. There may be a reduction of revenues by abolishing the internal taxation on liquors, or by reducing the import duties to practical Free Trade. There may be an increased expenditure, going to such extravagance as will consume all the revenues. There may be a use of the surplus, whatever it may be, for the relief of local and State taxation. These are the three ways that were seen to be open months ago, and over one of which we must expect to travel. Undoubtedly, some one of them is the best. The road of extravagance is not to be thought of. The road of Free Trade will be acceptable to those who care nothing for American industry. The road of liquor-tax repeal is that which is suggested by some Protectionists, and by the Democratic conventions of three or four States. But the road which will afford a general public relief ought to be that most acceptable to the people.

THE AGE OF NEWSPAPERS.

I is difficult for a member of this generation of mankind to realize what life was before the age of newspapers. And yet for a very large share of mankind that age began very recently. It was only in the era of the Napoleonic wars that the habit of newspaper-reading became universal in the middle classes of England, and began to extend

to the lower social strata. It was the War of American Independence that made the monthly intelligence of the Scot's Magazine and of the Gentleman's Magazine insufficient for the demands of people who lived outside of London, and brought the great city newspapers to a larger range of readers. Every great crisis sufficient to produce a popular excitement has extended the influence of the newspaper, and has given it a hold which it retained when the excitement was past. Our own civil war did this for American newspapers. It gave opportunities for enterprise in the public service which were rewarded, not only by present patronage, but by permanent influence.

Yet there are heard a few voices in protest against this vast popularity of the newspaper, and they are not altogether without reason. Religious feeling for a time resisted the innovation of newspaper-reading, although the most trusted and honored among the religious poets was the first to welcome the change and to point out its significance. Cowper's "folio of one sheet" was not welcome to all who welcomed the "Task." A lady friend assures us that she heard a good man express publicly his thankfulness that he never had read a newspaper in his life. It is easy to laugh at such people, but it is well to remember John Stuart Mill's saying that while the strongest minds may be looked for in the van of progress the next strongest are to be found bringing up the rear. Side by side with this religious conservatism stands HENRY THOREAU, who for years renounced newspaper-reading as inconsistent with ethical culture. Not until the Virginians hanged his friend, JOHN BROWN, did he buy one,—a New York Herald,—and when he had read it, he says, he washed his clothes in water and was unclean until evening!

It is beyond doubt that even the better class of newspapers may be a source of serious injury to careless readers who are not governed by strong instincts of right. The broadly indiscriminate way in which they depict the daily life of the world is not calculated to keep the great lines of right and wrong before the vision of such readers as these. Eternal and fundamental distinctions are apt to be buried under the mass of details. Indeed, the best and most thoughtful readers need to be on the watch, lest this constant but passive contact of the mind with events which should awaken pity, indignation, or some other emotion, may result in diminishing the capacity for such emotions.

Then, again, the sides of life which the newspaper is apt to bring out in the boldest relief are not those whose contemplation is most wholesome. It is the calamities, the rascalities and the acerbities of mankind that find their way most easily into its pages. Somebody once took the pains to catalogue the characters in "Hudibras," and showed that England as Butler found it was little more than a menagerie of fools, rogues and hypocrites. A moral analysis of the picture of life in a nation or a city as this is portrayed in the daily newspaper would not show such a lack of the brighter side as is found in "Hudibras," but it would show a preponderance of the darker elements which is not in accordance with the facts. This, perhaps, is unavoidable. It is precisely the darker points which lend themselves easily to the reporter's uses, while the brighter are less easily worked up into paragraphs of public interest.

It is unfortunate also that newspapers tend to foster the spirit of excitement and of unrest which pervades modern society. Their competition is to have the latest and the most extraordinary intelligence, as this is the best way to reach the popular ear. Your newsboy who offers you the afternoon paper, with the assurance that it describes " a horrible murder in the Eighteenth Ward," knows his public. The "display lines" by which the journalist seeks to attract attention to his news are a tribute to the popular craving for the startling and the exciting. This craving is not a subsidiary and unimportant passion with us. It has become a strong-almost a governing,-impulse in the cities and other business centres of America. It shows itself in the spirit of speculation in business and in the passion for intoxicants. We are not content to take life in a calm or peaceful fashion, like the great processes of nature, nil per saltum. We must have its changes come with telegraphic swiftness, to keep time with our nervous excitability. The climate tends to this restlessness, and the newspapers stimulate it until the quietness and patience that are the strength of wise men threaten utterly to leave large classes of our people.

Again, it may be doubted whether we do not incur intellectual as well as moral losses through the constant and especially the exclusive

reading of newspapers. Coleridge quotes from Averroes a list of practices which tend to weaken the memory, such as gazing on the clouds, riding among a multitude of camels, listening to a series of funny stories, and reading the epitaphs on tombstones. The common character of these acts is that they occupy the mind with a number of disconnected facts between which no logical nexus is traceable. Much of the same sort is newspaper-reading, and with much the same effects on the mind. It is easy to recall the dictum of Dr. Rush in his will that they are "teachers of disjointed thinking." The possession of a memory so good that we would call it remarkable seems to have been quite common in the earlier ages of mankind. The Hindoos carried the "Vedas" and the Persians their "Zend-Avesta" across the centuries in their memories. So the Edomites preserved "Job," the Jews their early traditions, and the Greeks their Homeric epics, before the art of writing came to their aid. There still are Jewish scholars who know the wilderness of the Talmud by heart, Hindoos who can repeat the "Vedas" and their commentaries, Christians who know every verse of the Bible. But none of these people are much given to newspaper-reading; they would find that altogether inconsistent with such exploits. Fortunately, the ars artium conservatrix brings us compensations with this loss. We do not need to know Homer by heart, as every Greek did, when for a dollar we can put a printed copy on our bookshelf. But we have lost something. There was an advantage in having stored the mind with a great work of literary art which is not balanced by the value of the lesser matters which occupy our attention. Indeed, we venture to doubt whether we have done well to wage an indiscriminate war upon the process of memorizing in education. Nothing can be said for the stupid cruelty which exacted the repetition from memory of grammatical rules and dry geographical facts. But if for these were substituted some of the great classics of the language the child would gain more by their acquisition in the memory than he will get from the most rational exposition of "subjects, not books," such as we now insist upon. Mr. Macaulay is an eminent instance of this use in memorization.

The general decay of memory, if we are right in believing that it is decaying, is more than an intellectual loss. Memory is the foundation of moral character. The degraded races of mankind are in no way more marked as degraded races than in their lack of the power of recollection. It is said that some of the Australian savages cannot recall anything that happened three days before. And the same differences reappear in the higher strata of humanity. The possession of a vigorous and retentive memory is all but indispensable to many of the social virtues; the want of it detracts from all.

Yet when all allowance has been made for the evils which grow out of a careless use of the newspaper the balance remains in favor of the practice of using them. The newspaper is the great enlarger of our intellectual horizon, the daily reminder of our bonds to the whole of human kind, the constant admonition against all selfish and narrow construction of life and its duties. It does for us in the space of to-day what the study of history may do for us in regard to the past, by lifting us out of the provincialisms and the limitations to which other pursuits tend to confine us, into sympathy with the whole of humanity.

WEEKLY NOTES.

THE complete statement of the Treasury for the month of July, completing the first seven months of the present calender year, shows how remarkably the specie movement is in our favor so far as gold is concerned. Thus the total export of specie from the country in the seven months was \$10,572,661; but of this sum only one-fifth (\$2,112,-792,) was gold, while the specie imports amounted to \$15,262,020, of which over half was gold (\$8,216,875). As to silver, the arrivals of that metal were \$7,045,145, and the outgo \$8,459,869.

MRS. WARREN, widow of the late General G. K. WARREN, U. S. A., in whose behalf an effort was made a year ago by admirers and friends of her husband, will shortly take possession of the memorial home purchased for her at Newport. It is a handsome villa, located on "Professors' Row," in the midst of a garden. Indoors, each room has some special charm, and in the library the portrait of the General will furnish a part of the decoration. Readers of The American who were interested in the memorial fund undertaking will doubtless be glad to hear of its substantial success.

SERIOUS BURGLARIES in the suburbs of London have excited such alarm that a meeting lately took place of all the twenty metropolitan superintendents, to concert measures of safety. A recent struggle between a constable without any arms, save his truncheon, and two burglars with pistols, in which the policeman came to serious grief, naturally led to suggestions in favor of the suburban police carrying pistols; but only six out of the twenty superintendents were in favor of this, the rest fearing that trouble might come of it at the hands of some rash men. This caution will seem strange here, yet we should be the better for rather more of it. In most of our large cities, the police are far too "ready" with their pistols as well as their clubs.

The charges of the druggist are a topic often under discussion. At the recent meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Association, Professor Attfield laid special emphasis on his assertion that the value of the educated druggist is, or ought to be, that he protects the consumer, and for affording this protection has a clear right to be paid. Professor Attfield suggests that the chemist might avowedly justify his charges by his knowledge of the things in which he deals; that he might say, in effect: "This medicine which I sell for sixpence cost me only twopence; and if I were a grocer I could sell it for threepence and be content. The remaining threepence are not my charge for the medicine, but for my time and trouble in ascertaining that it is genuine and unimpaired." The truth here, however, is that too often the druggist who charges high and even exorbitant prices is altogether incompetent to decide upon the quality of his drugs.

Two typographical errors (which we the more regret because we seldom have occasion to apologize on such account,) have been brought to our attention in last week's issue. In the special article, the common quotation, "mens sibi conscia recti," was printed "recte;" and in the communication from "C. D. E." the words, "instar omnium," were printed "instan. omnia."

MR. MACALISTER, the new superintendent of the public schools of Philadelphia, has entered upon a difficult and delicate task in his work to improve the system existing here. The powers of the local school boards are so extensive that the superintendent's authority as the executive officer of the general board is necessarily limited and hampered. The plans of Mr. Macalister doubtless amount to a purpose to prove the value of his work by each stage of its advancement, and to open the doors to greater usefulness upon the evidence that he has done well in the restricted field that is now open. But the friends of public education owe it to themselves and the general interests to enter into the spirit of the new undertaking, and to support heartily every step that is taken toward a reform of the existing imperfections. Mr. Macalister needs, and we think he will fully deserve, their full sympathy.

ART. THE PARIS ARTISTS' EXHIBITION.

Paris, September 17.

IN art as in politics, a democratic régime seems necessary to the happiness of the French; and so during the past three years the French artists have been living in a republic of their own, governing themselves, judging themselves and rewarding themselves independently both of the Government and of the official Académie des Beaux-Arts, which under the old régime and under its more comprehensive title of the Institute succeeded for a long period of years in excluding from the walls of the Salon the works of men like Theodore Rousseau, Millet, Corôt, Daubigny and Courbet. In 1880, it will be remembered, the State, tired of making vain efforts to satisfy the artists, abandoned the material and artistic organization of the annual Salons to the artists themselves, who at once formed themselves into a democratic and independent corporation, with the title of "Société Libre des Artistes Français." At the same time, the State announced its attention of organizing from time to time an official and select Salon. The idea was that the two institutions would correspond to different inspirations, preoccupations and interests. The rôle of the annual Salon was to give satisfaction to that need of great and wide publicity which is the first condition of the artistic career and the foundation of all renown in the days we live in. legitimately beyond a doubt; the young men, above all, who have embraced the difficult career of art have a right to demand as large and generous a place in the sun as it is possible to give them. It would seem as if this were in a way a natural law; at any rate, during the past twenty years no rules or regulations have been strong enough to resist the continual increase of exhibited works, until finally the annual Salon has become a vast picture bazar and the walls of the Palais de l'Industrie have been covered annually from eye-line to ceiling with the productions of young and old artists, each seeking to affirm his mark. The Government and the artists themselves admit then that the rôle of the annual Salon is to be more and more comprehensive. The rôle of the official Salon, on the other hand, is to be limited and exclusive, and by its institution the State hopes to resolve the difficult problem of taking

in hand the interests of art without constraining in any way the great current of productive activity that feeds the annual Salon, and of presenting to the world at certain epochs the finest and best works of the

contemporary French school.

This first official Salon, which opened last week under the title of "Exposition Nationale des Ouvrages des Artistes Vivants," is open to works executed by French and foreign artists since May 1st, 1878, in the departments of painting, drawing, engraving, sculpture and architecture. The jury of admission were formed half of members of the different corresponding sections of the Académie des Beaux-Arts and half of men who have attained eminence as artists or critics. No medals or recompenses will accompany this exhibition, which is a purely artistic manifestation. The total number of works to be admitted was limited to eight hundred paintings, two hundred drawings, three hundred pieces of sculpture, one hundred and fifty specimens of engraving, and fifty architectural designs. In point of fact, this number has not been attained, the number of paintings being only seven hundred and seventy-two painters, and the sculptures comprising only two hundred and ninety-seven numbers, the work of one hundred and fifty-four artists, the number of works exhibited by each artist being unlimited. Such, in brief, were the conditions under which this new official Salon has been

organized. The first impression of the exhibition, interesting and remarkable as it is, is one of disappointment. It is wanting in novelty; it has not the vivacity of the annual Salon, where the young men bring all their ardor and freshness to the struggle, and where you rarely fail to discover some new star in the artistic horizon. The vast majority of the pictures exhibited are still familiar to us from having been exhibited at recent Salons, and many of them have not been removed from the Palais de *l' Industrie* since last May. Indeed, in round numbers, one may say that out of seven hundred pictures not more than fifty are new. Again, the exhibition is not national, as its title says; for it is not a complete representation of French art, and many notable names are absent, as, Duran, Ribot, Vollon, Vuillefroy, Ziem, Ch. Jacque, Hector Leroux, Clairin; I cite merely from memory. It is not international, either; for almost the only foreign artists who exhibit are Josef Israels, I. de Nittis, Alma-Tadema, Brozik, Makart, Lieberman, Willems, Welden-Hawkins, Mesdag, Clays, Smith-Hald, and the Americans, D. Ridgway Knight, F. M. Boggs, Dannat, Bridgman and Mosler. However, it is to have seen the shortcomings of this present exhibition; for it is announced that instead of being triennial, as was at first intended, the Exposition Nationale will be quinquennial. The next exhibition will take place in 1888, and it will be international; that is to say, the different Governments will be officially invited to see that the art of the various countries is adequately represented. Furthermore, it is hoped that the artists will in future work especially with a view to this periodical salon d'élite, where they will have the honor of struggling, not only with their countrymen, but also with a picked company of foreign rivals. With these modifications, the quinquennial Salon will naturally become an institution of the highest interest and capable of rendering very great services to art in all countries.

As I have already intimated, the vast majority of the pictures at this exhibition are too familiar to need fresh description. Many of them I have had the honor of noticing in these columns in my notes on the annual Salon. I shall therefore only briefly mention some of the few striking novelties, such as Henner's "Andromeda," a masterpiece of color and flesh painting, a canvas on which the artist has been at work for several years, and which some day or other will find its place in the Louvre, in company with the works of the grand colorists of the old Italian school. I. de Nittis, who avoids the promiscuity of the annual Salon, exhibits a scene in a Parisian drawing-room full of Parisian elegance and refinement, a work in which all the complications and qualities of brilliant artificial light are rendered with consummate art. Jules Dupré, the veteran survivor of the glorious generation of 1830, whose pictures have already taken their place beside the works of his friends and peers, Rousseau, Millet and Corôt, exhibits eight landscapes which are above criticism; we can only marvel and admire. Meissonier, the great little master, has sent six pictures which are being much discussed. Meissonier of late years has carefully shunned the annual Salons, and the public have not seen any of his work. At present, they cannot only see this work, but they can compare it with the work of rivals whose neighborhood Meissonier has of late either feared or disdained. this trial tend to increase Meissonier's popularity? The general opinion seems to be the contrary. The two microscopic portraits of M. Victor Lefranc and of Mrs. Mackey are comparable with the works of the minute masters of the Dutch school; but, heaven be praised! the minute masters of the Dutch school are not the last word of art. In his four other pictures,—"Le Chant," "Le Guide" (an episode of the Republican wars of 1797), "The Ruins of the Tuileries, 1871," and "An Interior View of Saint Mark's, Venice,"—Meissonier has gone to work on three and four foot canvases, and the larger the canvas is the narrower and the more cramped his painting becomes. In "Le

Guide" we have a regiment of grenadiers coming through a birch wood, full face to the spectator. Every man and horse is consequently foreshortened. The science and skill with this foreshortening is done are marvellous, the drawing of all the details is wonderful, each horse, each man and each bridle is irreproachable, and yet the whole picture is cold and lifeless, and the color very mediocre. Meissonier as a draughtsman is a great artist,—a very great artist; but Meissonier as a painter is very debatable, in spite of the absurdly high prices that have been paid for his works by people who have more money than individuality

of judgment.

Meissonier is certainly not the great triumpher in the present exhibition. But without attempting any comparisons or classifications I shall simply mention the men whose works, both new and old, are the chief attractions of the Exposition Nationale, and these are Henner, Cabanel, Jules Lefebvre, Bonnat as a portraitist, Baudry and Puvis de Chavannes (two great decorative painters), Olivier Merson's simple and naif religious pictures, Guillaumet with a fine series of Arab scenes, Hebert, James Tissot, J. P. Laurens, and Léon Lhermitte. Bastien-Lepage and J. C. Cazin are much examined and also very much discussed. Of the American exhibitors, I need only say that in the hands of D. R. Knight ("Un Deuil," Salon of 1882,) and F. M. Boggs ("Place de la Bastille," from the Luxembourg Museum,) American art is as well represented as that of any other foreign country.

In the department of drawings and engravings, there is a quantity of splendid work that would really deserve a special article. Jean Paul Laurens, Louis Leloir, Lhermitte, Fantin-Latour, Jean Gigoux, Cazin, Hédouin, Émile Lévy,—who exhibits also a remarkable series of pastels,—all send drawings beyond criticism; while Waltner, Le Rat, Lecouteux, Hédouin, Guérard, Champollion and Boilvin maintain the honor of the French etchers and engravers.

In the wood-engraving department, Mr. Robert Hoskin exhibits some admirable blocks for *Harper's Magazine*, while the French wood-cutters are brilliantly represented by Pannemaker, Ch. Baude, and Clement and Georges Bellenger.

The exhibition of sculpture is very remarkable, although as the sculptor's work finds its resting-place on public monuments many of the artists are not represented by their finest works. The great successes of the exhibition will be for MM. Barrias, Frémiet, Rodin, Saint-Marceaux, Falguière and Mercie.

On the whole, we must applaud the institution of this new Salon, provided it be modified, as it doubtless will be; and with all its short-comings the present exhibition is certainly an artistic manifestation such as no country but France could produce. It proves—what, indeed, needs no proof,—the brilliant supremacy of France in the fine arts.

THEODORE CHILD.

LONELINESS.

I N moods of transient mournfulness,
With morbid meaning rife,
Sometimes we prate of solitude,—
The loneliness of life.

But, could we follow silently
A single dying breath,
How quickly we would understand
The loneliness of death.

Augusta, Ga.

WILLIAM H. HAYNE.

REVIEWS.

GRANT WHITE'S "RIVERSIDE SHAKESPEARE."*

R. GRANT WHITE, though he may falsify history and insult the patriotism of his countrymen, ought to know something about Shakespeare. It was some time ago given out that he was at work on an edition of the immortal dramatist which should be unlike all other editions as well as an improvement upon them. The work has at last appeared, and the promise is seen to have been in some important respects very fairly kept. The "Riverside Shakespeare" is well suited to the uses of the lover of the poet who does not desire to have his attention frittered away by the inconsequent annotator. All readers are familiar with the wearisome, note-burthened Shakespeare, to read which is to make a toil of pleasure. Its editor usually treats its readers as though they were children who could be left nowhere to their own judgment, but who needed even on the slightest peculiarity of expression to have an elaborate explanation. Such annotation, of course, distracts the reader; however firmly he may resolve to the contrary, his attention is interrupted and led away, and his comprehension as well as his enjoyment is disturbed. But on the other hand there are the editions following the "Folio," pure and simple, with all the errors, obsolete words and phrases, etc., which even a well-read man may be pardoned for not understanding, and which makes this sort of reading of the poet hard and unsatisfactory. The unadorned text is preferable to the overweighted one of which we have complained, but there is a median line which is better than either extreme. A certain amount of intelligent note-making is necessary to a proper understanding of the author, supposing the text to be faithfully respected, and there are various good editions in which the outside call on the reader's notice is made infrequent and simple.

Mr. White has undertaken to give a good text, without undertaking to explain all the processes by which its goodness has been settled, in the judgment of the editor. So far as we are aware, he is the only one who has confined his attention strictly to words that are obsolete, and to words and phrases which have so far lost their meaning as used by Shakespeare that they convey no idea, or fail to convey the proper one. The minute care and sound judgment shown here by the editor are of a very noticeable kind; yet it would be curious if the amount of these explanations could be compared with those of the interminable editors of the Mahone and Warburton order. The number of Mr. White's notes in all is considerable; but they are for the reason given only a small part of the notings of old-time editors, while they are in all instances exceedingly brief, being very seldom more than a line in length and often consisting of but three or four words. The attention is not called off by references in the text, but it is impliedly left to the judgment or the need of the reader when to look for elucidation of the We have tested the watchfulness of Mr. White in a considerable part of the work. Running down the page for some obscure or popularly incomprehensible word, we have thence referred to the foot, and the editor, we are bound to say, has nowhere failed us. It is a very great comfort to read a standard author prepared with such scrupulous care, and, as we believe, with equal exactness, and in which the editor at the same time treats his reader with dignity, assuming him to be a man of equal intelligence, if not of critical scholarship, with himself. With all this earnest intent not to patronize his reader, Mr. White does, it is true, now and then trip, as when he explains that in the line in "The Tempest"—"that he in lieu of the premises,"—
"in lieu" means "in consideration." That is much the kind of thing that is so "riling" in the old editors, but there is very little, indeed, of it in Mr. White. His notes are shrewd, wise, indispensable.

Associated with this determination to keep the annotation within the briefest possible space, is another idea hardly less important. It may be said to be included in the great note question; but we have hitherto been considering the cases of obsolete or unusual words, the explanation of which was really the least part of Mr. White's labor, although it appears more conspicuously than his other work. Indeed, it makes the entire showing; for while the greater task was to furnish a trustworthy text the arguments through which countless questions were decided are not given. All the scaffolding is knocked away, and nothing remains but the building. This, again, was sound judgment for a popular edition. Elaborately critical editions in many volumes can be had by those who care more for disputation than for the subject of it; but the design here was different. In some other respects, however, it strikes us that Mr. White might have been profitably fuller. torical, bibliographical and other introductory matter to the plays is rather disappointing; it is good as far as it goes, but points of true interest are often entirely neglected or treated in a very summary manner. Then we can but think it an error to dismiss the whole subject of the theatre as completely as Mr. White does in these volumes; it might be almost supposed from this edition that Shakespeare was designed for the closet, and never had any other field. And while we are upon this disagreeable quarter of our duty we must object to the familiar tone assumed by Mr. White in his introduction and in divers other places, Allusions to Dundreary's night-shirts and such things, we modestly suggest, are out of place in the vestibule of such a careful, and perhaps lasting, piece of work. Without being hypercritical, it may be reasonably held that no publication except the admittedly ephemeral property permits the kind of contempt of fitness which Mr. White is guilty of in various places. The preface would make a very excellent magazine article. Placed as it is, with all the sound sense it now and again expresses, it is a blemish on the book through lack of dignity; at least, it certainly has passages which are blemishes.

The make-up of the book we can in most essential respects heartily praise. The body of the work is printed in a beautifully bold and clear type which is a delight to the tired eye. The arrangement of the notes, the numbering of the lines, etc., show good judgment. We should prefer fuller stage directions, but those given are printed in an italic letter which makes an excellent contrast to the text. To the slight emphasis given in a characterless type to the entrances and exits, we decidedly object. If the design was to choose a third letter which should be a contrast as well to the text as to the stage directions, the end could have been reached in ways better than the one chosen. These "vital statistics," as they may be called, of an acting play are important. A play seems to lack movement when we do not strongly realize the positions and doings of the characters; and Shakespeare is not an abstraction, to be read merely for his philosophy and his poetry. He wrote for the stage, and his stage relations should never be overlooked.

^{* &}quot;Mr. William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, Tragedies and Poems." Edited by Richard Grant White. "Riverside" edition. Three volumes. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

"SCRIPTURAL IDEA OF MAN." By Dr. Mark Hopkins. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Another word has been added to the so-called conflict of reason with religion, by the republication of Dr. Hopkins's lectures before the theological students of Princeton, delivered last spring. The evident purpose of these lectures is to place the pulpit presentation of ethics and theology in more perfect accord with the state of the discussion between naturalism and supernaturalism already reached. This aim is sought by a twofold division of the argument, the first embracing a consideration of the necessary truths of consciousness, the second rearing a structure of morals and Christian dogma on the foundation thus laid. That Dr. Hopkins has seen fit to find the contents of his conclusions in Scriptural terms, was to be expected from the circumstances under which the lectures were prepared, and hence the book is a contribution to Christian apologetics.

The especial speculative value of Dr. Hopkins's argument lies in the discriminating definitions it seeks for psychological terms. The ambiguous and vacant phraseology adduced from Mansel, Spencer, Hamilton, Descartes, Hegel, and others, shows how many will-o'-the-wisps still invest the dreary ground of metaphysics. Nor is it quite clear that there is no petitio principii in Dr. Hopkins's argument itself, notwith-standing his clearness and precision of statement. It is a long leap, for example, from the slender basis of a valid consciousness of personal being to a belief in the attributes of a personal god. The connection is not made out, and, it should be said, it is not attempted; for the book assumes a capacity for philosophical study in the reader, and seeks only to furnish the few postulates necessary to build upon for a Christian

One point Dr. Hopkins refuses to discuss as a recent triviality, and that is the definition of man as a series of modifications of consciousness, and nothing more. Yet a school of Hegelians has held this position from the side of idealism for years, and long before the English naturalists defined identity as a cerebric habit induced by molecular modifications of brain tissue. The point is worth attention, since it involves the whole question of man's dual nature.

If it were worth while to treat the claim that a man cannot believe what he cannot understand as a philosophical pretension, it deserves more than to be exploded by definitions of terms. The difficulty raised by this claim does not concern the validity of evidence or of the necessary truths of consciousness, but of the relations of admitted facts; that is, of the validity of opinions. Man's quality as a moral and intelligent being does not begin in the perception of truths, but in the perception of their relations; and his refusal to believe what he cannot understand can only mean, not that he will not accept evidence, but that he will not relate facts. Thus it questions the validity of speculative processes. In view of the vast number of exploded theories which encumber human history, men are justified in their reluctance to dogmatize. Indeed, it is just here that we find the weakest point of Dr. Hopkins's book. these days of controversy between the inductive and deductive schools, the skeptic asks more of the Christian apologist than that he shall prove a few intuitive primary truths to have the same validity as facts of observation,—even that he shall establish the validity of those steps whereby we go on to revelation and its consequences. Now it is the peculiarity of this apology that it leaves the reader to supply all these intermediate steps, and passes at once from the vindication of two or three primary intuitions to a structure of Scriptural morals and dogma. And yet the book is altogether a helpful contribution towards bringing the utterances of the pulpit into better accommodation to the difficulties of belief in these skeptical days.

In the superstructure of this book, Dr. Hopkins considers the nature of morals, marriage, and the character of Christ. On the subject of morals, he reaffirms and explains his published opinions; on marriage, he makes the family unity the basis of conservative remarks upon female independence and on divorce; on Christ, he presents afresh the arguments of Drs. Young, Bushnell and Christlieb. In style, the book bears the well-known qualities of its eminent and venerable author,—dearness, directness, vigor. "His natural force is not abated."

"How to Help the Poor." By Mrs. James T. Fields. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Mrs. Fields's little book is inspired by a tenderly earnest desire to make soiled and marred humanity fair and noble, whether men are marred by the iron hand of adversity or soiled by infirmities of spirit. Too often, alas! the defacements of vice are the results of adverse surroundings and bad inheritances. While there are moralists, and some philanthropists, too, who think that the censure of faults is essential to tone up the will and invigorate virtuous impulses, a far more genial, and doubtless a far more effective, class of workers has arisen, not to advocate indulgence in any form of badness, but to study with sympathetic heart the genesis of moral obliquities in order to overcome them, and with fraternal healing touch to strengthen the weakened will or to clear the film from darkened eyes.

Mrs. Fields is one of the latter group. She is one who not only can write with infinite yearning, but who wearies herself with a close and patient inspection of wretchedness, and carries the burden, not of its

simple palliation, but of its cure. In this attitude there is a compassion akin to His whom the earth reveres because He helped men, not by rebukes and denunciations, but by an intercourse with them which neither contaminated His loving nature nor countenanced their self-indulgence.

Approaching her subject from this point, Mrs. Fields states even her most commonplace suggestions in a context and with a simple fervor that lend them attractiveness and, what is more to her purpose, persuasiveness. There is on the pages her pen has traced the same hopeful, patient, winning ardor that one finds in the writings of Octavia Hill, or Florence Nightingale, or Edward Denison. She lends an interest, therefore, to the homeliest detail of work amongst the poor, and the scrubbing of a dirty threshhold is dignified in her hands by the promise of some new emancipation in a human soul. If other people than "friendly visitors" would read such books, as they could not escape the charm of their spirit, so neither could they avoid the contagion of their purpose. Such literature leads one a long way towards the solution of many a hard social problem.

many a hard social problem.

"How to Help the Poor" is not a treatise on dependent classes. It aims at no philosophical or analytical disquisitions, and yet it implies the authorship of one quite versed in the best thoughts and experiences of philanthropy. It is little more than a manual guide for visitors of the poor in its outline, but its suggestions are so skilfully woven together and illustrated as to commend them to the judgment of the reader. But the book will serve still other purposes; it will show those who are baffled and perplexed in their endeavors to do good many untried resources available to them; it will arouse an enthusiasm to help where hitherto there has scarcely been a sense of personal duty towards the depressed.

Not the least element of value in the recommendations of the book is the fact that they have grown out of an active share in the work of the Boston Associated Charities. Yet Mrs. Fields does not advocate the claims of charity organization, nor plead for the aggrandizement of any society. Her aim manifestly is to make the good with which her observation has dealt the common possession of the community, and indurated must be the hearts of her readers who will not thank her for the help and impulse her little volume affords.

The Solace and Companionship of Books.—One of the very daintiest of current issues from the press, in its elegant paper and typography and its flexible "parchment" covers, is "The Book-Lover's Enchiridion," published by Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. The compiler modestly subscribes himself "Philobiblios," and aptly terms his little volume "Thoughts on the Solace and Companionship of Books." The words, "Solace" and "Companionship," strike us as very happily chosen; they precisely cover the ground and well convey the sense of gratitude to what many a man has found his best friends. The "Enchiridion" is entirely a compilation, but editing done with such nice skill attains the dignity of original matter. Every man who ever wrote has had something to say of the value of books, so that to make these one hundred and fifty extracts from the most noticeable expressions in all ages and various languages required particular strength of judgment. Each author quoted is chronologically noted, and the opinions begin with that of Solomon, 1,000 B. C.,—"Apply thy heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge,"—and are brought to our own time, the last writer quoted being Longfellow, in this passage:

"So I behold these books upon their shelf,
My ornaments and arms of other days;
Not wholly useless, though no longer used,
For they remind me of my other self,
Younger and stronger, and the pleasant ways
In which I walked, now clouded and confused."

Every name here quoted is famous, but for thought there is nothing in the "Enchiridion" surpassing the utterances of Montaigne, nor for easy entertainment superior to the genial writing of Lamb, with his comical complaints of Coleridge's "borrowings" of books. One of the most suggestive things, most truly expressive of the life and influence of books, is a quotation from Emerson beginning, "Consider what you have in every well-chosen library," and containing this striking passage: "The men themselves were hid and inaccessible, solitary, impatient of interruption, fenced by etiquette; but the thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out in transparent words to us, the strangers of another age." That is a "thought that breathes." This little volume is one of the books worth keeping.

"THE INNER LIFE OF CHRIST, AS REVEALED IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW." By Joseph Parker, D. D. Vol. II., "Servant of All." New York: Funk & Wagnalls.

Dr. Parker is a prominent Congregationalist minister of London, noted in England as one of their few effective extemporaneous speakers, and perhaps best known on this side of the Atlantic as the author of "Ecce Deus," an orthodox counterpart to "Ecce Homo." In style and tone of thought, he reminds us of Henry Ward Beecher; yet he is perhaps more orthodox and conforms more closely to the traditions of the pulpit. The present volume is a second series of sermons on the

life of Christ as given in the first Gospel. Though following continuously the narrative of the Evangelist, they are, to use the customary phrase, practical, rather than expository. Dr. Parker's style of preaching, and his justification of it, may be seen in this brief extract:

"Crowds must be caught by points, rather than by arguments. In speaking to the crowd, I find that the master spoke many things; many things to many hearers. That is the law of successful speech to multitudes. Yet the many things were about one thing; the subject never changed. The one thing was the kingdom of heaven; the many things were the many parables. There was unity in variety, and variety in unity. The subject was the kingdom of heaven, and the illustrations were brought from every quarter of life and nature." quarter of life and nature."

Such an easy, colloquial style, less careful to avoid repetitions than to make the meaning clear and impress it on the mind, is perhaps the best in the spoken sermon, except on special occasions; just such a talk was denoted by the Latin sermo; yet when the book was printed the pruning-knife might have been used with advantage.

BRIEFER NOTICES.

** A Contribution to the History of European Morals," is a handsome octavo volume, by George L. Fort (New York: J. W. Bouton). The book is so well made mechanically in most respects that it is a pity the proof-reading is so bad. As to the author's work, it presents a very interesting compilation of facts, references and quotations which are well indexed, and will therefore be of use to the judicious student; its faults are obscurity of style and inaccuracy of statement. In the opening sentence, the author curiously ascribes the conquest of Greece to Lucullus and Pompey; elsewhere, Hippocrates is alluded to as the "Sage of Chios." The title of the book suggests Lecky's far greater work ("The History of European Morals"), and the author's method is not unlike that of Lecky. The whole subject is a curious and important one, but it requires broader and more sympathetic handling than Mr. Fort has been able to give it.

This small volume ("From Gloom to Gladness." By Rev. J. S. Van Dyke. New York: Funk & Wagnalls,) is made up of a series of illustrative discourses based upon the story of Queen Esther. It is very religious in tone and lively and forcible in style, and evinces a high moral purpose on the part of the writer. The author's point of view is the traditional Protestant one, and he ignores, on the one hand, those deuterocanonical fragments which the Romish Church receives, while he fails to notice the very considerable difficulties which late criticism finds in the text of the narrative. In short, his purpose is didestic, rather than critical his purpose is didactic, rather than critical.

It is always in order to write the life of George Washington, and if the time ever omes when one well written does not find sale amongst the people of the United States it will be a bad sign for them and no discredit to the author of the work. This particular essay on the subject ("Young People's Life of George Washington." By William M. Thayer. New York: John B. Alden,) has some merits, and is better worth attention than some other attempts of the sort,—as, for instance, Parson Weems's,—while it has such blunders of style and such inexactness of historical statement in occasional places that the most friendly critic will wish it had been better done.

The second in the series of Colonel Waring's "Horse Stories" (Boston: J. R. Osgood & Co.,) is that of "Ruby," a gallant animal that could both leap and run. The story is not as pathetic as that of poor "Vix," but it is still interesting and

A small volume by E. W. Boyd, head of St. Agnes's School, Albany (New York: Thomas Whittaker), describes concisely, but in an interesting and very painstaking way, "English Cathedrals: Their Architecture, Symbolism and History." Mr. Boyd gives at length a glossary of terms used in the architectural descriptions, and this contains a number of illustrations. His descriptions of the cathedrals follow, each one having a paragraph or two.

As the appetizing appearance of a new dish tempts one to try whether it is as good as it looks, so we hope will the attractive exterior of this little book on cookery, "Mrs. Gilpin's Frugalities," by Susan Anna Brown, the author of "Forty Puddings" (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons), induce our feminine readers to make a test of the value of its directions for combining economy with attractiveness in our daily food. It contains two hundred practical recipes for making the remnants of our meals furnish fresh, wholesome and tempting, though inexpensive, dishes, with which to relieve the monotony of steak, roast and chop. Her desire is that American housewives, who have such a reputation for wastefulness, shall imitate Mistress Gilpin, who,—

"Though on pleasure she was bent, She had a frugal mind."

The authoress brings King Solomon to her support, who she says must have had in mind housekeeping when he said: "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

THE ILLUSTRATED CATHOLIC FAMILY ANNUAL FOR 1884. Pp. 125. Catholic Publication Society Company, New York.

Two Years in Hillsboro: A Story. By Julia Nelson. Pp. 287. \$1.25. J. B.

Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

BANNED AND BLESSED: A NOVEL. After the German of E. Werner, by Mrs. A. I. Wister. Pp. 390. \$1.50. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

WIT AND WISDOM OF PROVERBIAL PHILOSOPHY. By Marshall Brown. Pp. 325.

\$1.25. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

Young Folks' Whys and Wherefores: A Story. By "Uncle Lawrence." Illustrated. Pp. 245. \$2. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS' PLUTARCH. Edited by Rosalie Kaufman. Illustrated. Pp. 450. \$3. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

A WOMAN OF HONOR. By H. C. Bunner. Pp. 336. \$1.25. James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. (E. Claxton & Co., Philadelphia.)

THE AMERICAN GIRL'S HOME BOOK OF WORK AND PLAY. By Helen Campbell.

Illustrated. Pp. 417. \$2. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. (E. Claxton & Co., Philadelphia.)

WORK FOR WOMEN. By George J. Munson. Pp. 139. \$0.60. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. (E. Claxton & Co., Philadelphia.)

HEALTH NOTES FOR STUDENTS. By Burt G. Wilder, M. D. Pp. 50. \$0.20. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. (E. Claxton & Co., Philadelphia.)

A DICTIONARY OF QUOTATIONS FROM ENGLISH AND AMERICAN POETS. Pp. 760. \$2.50. Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York. (Porter & Coates, Philadelphia.)

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

ONDON LETTERS say that the autobiography of Anthony Trollope, which is to appear about the end of October, contains much sad detail concerning the poverty and misery of his early youth. But the sale of his works brought him large returns,—sixty thousand pounds sterling between the years 1847 and 1849.

Zola is to bring out a new novel, "Nais Nicoulin," early this month. -Lytton's life and literary remains, edited by his son, are in shape for beginning the issue. They will make eight volumes in all, and the first two, which are to be out this year, will cover his career up to the time of his entering Parliament.

A correspondent in Iowa writes THE AMERICAN: "In your catalogue of books on Luther, you did not mention the life by Rev. Barnas Sears, D.D., a duodecimo of about five hundred pages, with portraits of Luther and his wife, and some twenty five illustrations. It was published by the American Sunday-School Union in 1849, and though in homely dress and clumsy form it is a work of merit. Dr. Sears says of it in his preface that 'nearly all the works, amounting to some hundreds of volumes, which cast new light on the subject in hand, have been carefully examined.'"

The September number of *The Antiquary* contains articles on "Early Oriental Coins," by Professor Percy Gardner; "Ireland in 1600," by J. Theodore Bent; and an illustrated article on Caxton's "Game of Chess;" together with continuations of the serials, "Public Rights in the Thames," and "The Book of Howth." There are not many journals which fill the field they were projected to supply more adequately than this admirably-edited periodical. (London: Elliot Stock. New York: J. W. Bouton.)

The sixteenth issue of the "Catholic Family Annual" (for 1884,) is as full of matters of interest to members of that Church as were any of the numbers in the past. In addition to a very full calendar, considerable historical and biographical matter is given, together with good portraits of Catholic worthies, including several prominent persons recently deceased. Among these is Archbishop Wood, of Philadelphia, whose services to religion are fittingly commemorated.

It is announced that Mr. Blaine's new book is in press, and that the first volume will be given to subscribers before the end of the year. It is evident that its sale will be very large, though it arises from the nature of the case that in the particular of his personal reminiscences the distinguished author cannot always go to the end of candor. While he may open many new things to the public, he must draw a line somewhere in his confidences.

Mr. Charles Barnard in this week's Critic (New York,) undertakes to show that the theatre is simply a publishing house, and that unknown authors should share with theatrical managers the risks of putting their works on the stage.

The Macmillans have in press an edition of Matthew Arnold's works intended expressly for the American market.——A new work by Mr. J. A. Symonds is now passing through the press in London, in which the accomplished writer breaks what is for him new ground, and treats of "The English Dramatists Before Shakespeare."—The Sanitary Engineer is to be published hereafter in London as well as in New York, the date of issue being a fortnight later in the former city. The sheets will be each week from New York will be sent over each week from New York.

Mr. Whymper's new volume, in which he details his expeditions in the Andes, will Mr. Whymper's new volume, in which he details his expeditions in the Andes, win soon appear. It is profusely illustrated by the author.——A popular edition of Sir William Stirling Maxwell's "Don John of Austria" is nearly ready in London. The tedition de luxe of the same work, issued recently, consisted of only one hundred and fifteen copies, and of these only seventy were for sale. The book was begun twenty-five years since.——Mr. Egmont Hake has been for some time engaged on a life of General C. G. Gordon. It is to be called "The Story of Chinese Gordon."

Mr. Swinburne has written the articles on Marlowe and on Mary of Scotland for Mr. Swinburne has written the articles on Marlowe and on Mary of Scotland for the new volume of the "Encyclopædia Britannica."—The sixth annual conference of the British Library Association commenced a fortnight since in Liverpool. Sir James Picton delivered the opening address, on "Libraries, and What They Ought to Be."—The Macmillans have printed one hundred and fifty thousand copies of the first number of The English Illustrated Magazine, induced thereto by the preliminary orders received.—Two important books about India are announced this autumn. One is Professor Seeley's "Expansion of England;" the other is "India: The Land and the People," by Sir James Caird.

The extravaganza, "Vice Versa," has had great success. To say nothing of other editions in England, the cheap issue of twenty thousand copies which lately appeared was almost immediately exhausted.——A fifth edition of Mr. Bosworth Smith's "Life of Lord Lawrence" has just been issued in London, and the author is engaged in preparing a popular edition one volume.——"How John Norton Kept His in preparing a popular edition in one volume. ——"How John Norton Kept His Christmas" is the title of a story which Rev. W. H. H. Murray has written for the extra holiday number of *Harper's Weekly*.

The Pall Mall Gazette recently made this curious statement: "The catalogue of the library of the Reform Club, which has just been printed for the members, consists of about thirty-five thousand volumes, being considerably smaller than that of the Athenæum." There has long been a dispute as to the comparative sizes of library catalogues; perhaps this statement of our London contemporary may be considered as settling it.——Messrs. Taintor Bros., Merrill & Co., New York, will shortly issue "Mexico and the Mexicans," by Howard Conkling. The book will be illustrated by the author, who is a grandson of a former Minister to Mexico.——About the time when Mr. Henry Irving will produce in America Wills's tragedy, "Charles I.," in which Cromwell figures as a sordid and vulgar clown, there will be acted at the Odéon Theatre in Paris the first published play of Victor Hugo, called "Cromwell," and famous more because of its preface than of its merits, as it is so hopelessly long that very few readers have ever had the courage to persevere in its perusal.

A Finnish student, Mr. Kaarlo Krohn, has been travelling in Esthonia for the pur-A Finnish student, Mr. Kaarlo Krohn, has been travelling in Esthonia for the purpose of collecting the folk songs, the number of which surpassed all expectation. Mr. Krohn has during this summer obtained over one thousand, and the Finnish Literary Society in Helsingfors has now over thirteen thousand such songs in its possession.

The third volume of the "History of Civilization in Scotland," by Mr. John Mackintosh, of Aberdeen, recording the chief events in the country's history from 1603 to 1746, will be issued in October, in London. The industrious author has devoted to this work the greater part of his life. It seems that the early editions of Tennyson are not keeping up their old prices. At a late sale at Sotheby's, the "Poems, Chiefly Lyrical," of 1830, and the "Poems" (1833), went together for two guineas; the "Timbuctoo" in the Cambridge prize poems of 1840 for two shillings, though in whole morocco. At the same sale, a copy of Ruskin's poems fetched twenty-one pounds. ——Madame "Henri Gréville," author of various novels describing Russian and Norman life, is about to publish a work entitled "Économie Domestique." Madame Gréville will not confine herself to the material objects to which the programme calls special attention; she will combine with her practical advice to the future housewife much moral teaching.

ART NOTES.

THE Portfolio for September has interesting articles on "Donatello," by Sidney Colvin, and "Cragford Bridge," by R. S. Chattock. Mr. Hamerton's "Paris" series is continued with descriptions of some famous old churches, St.-Sulpice among the rest, and Amelia B. Edwards contributes the third instalment of her valuable "Ancent Egyptian Art." This division of her subject is devoted to "Portrait Sculpture in the Successive Renaissance Periods," and shows great learning, research, and art appreciation. The illustrations of the number are fully up to the high standard of The Portfolio. The principal plates are four splendid reproductions from the works of Donatello, a study of a female head by D. G. Rossetti, and an etching of "Cragford Bridge," by Mr. Chattock. Besides these there are a dozen or more fine wood-cuts, and a careful summary of art news concludes the number. (New York: J. W. Bouton.)

Relics of old London continue to disappear. Those which escape restoration are pulled down.—Bouguereau's chief contribution to the Salon, the large canvas with ten figures, children grouped at the feet and about an "Alma Parens," has been placed in the gallery of M. Knoedler & Co., New York.—A marble bust of Taglioni has been set up in the Paris Opera-House, and a bust of Desaix has been erected at Riom, on the summit of a column of granite.—The number of students connected with the Lowell School of Practical Design since its establishment in 1872 is four hundred and twenty-seven. Of these, two hundred and one were male and two hundred and twenty-six female.

The excavations in the island of Delos, in charge of the *Ecole Française* of Athens, have been suspended for the present, owing to the establishment of a lazaretto in the immediate neighborhood. Important discoveries have been made in the short time during which these researches have been carried on. The ruins of a private house of the time of Alexander, which were uncovered near the *Théâtre d'Apollon*, included the pavement of a court in mosaics representing flowers and fish.

Horace Bradley has been awarded the prize of one thousand dollars offered by the Georgia State Legislature for the best oil portrait of the late Senator B. H. Hill. Seven other portraits were handed in.—The Queen of Denmark is an accomplished painter, and lately presented the village of Klitmoller, in Jutland, with an altarpiece of her own workmanship.—The first number of the new official Yournal of Indian Art will seasonably appear about the time of the opening of the Calcutta Exhibition in December.—The life classes of the New York Art Stuuents' Association will during the coming season be under the direction of Walter Shirlaw.—Mr. J. W. Bouton, New York, announces a limited edition of twenty-five copies to American subscribers of "The Art of the Old English Potter," by L. M. Solon. The book will be an imperial quarto, printed on Dutch hand made paper, and with fifty plates etched by the author.

Mrs. Mitchell's "History of Sculpture" will be published early in October by Dodd, Mead & Co., and will appear simultaneously in London.—Reginald Cleveland Coxe, a son of Bishop Coxe, and who has been studying in Paris under Bonnat for some time, has opened a studio in New York.—In accordance with the wishes of his deceased brother, Mr. Thomas Agnew has presented to the art gallery at Manchester, England, Mr. Holman Hunt's large picture, "The Shadow of Death."

The present exhibition at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art will close in a few days. The reopening will take place in the early part of November.——The drop scene of the new Lyceum Theatre at Edinburgh is a reproduction in monochrome of Alma Tadema's painting, "Sappho."——The next French official Salon, which will be held in 1838, will be international.——A statue of Daniel Rowlands has lately been unveiled at Llangeitho, Wales. He was the founder of the Calvinistic Methodist Church, which is now the most numerous sect in the principality.

It will be impossible to have the statue of Luther, which is to be erected in Washington, ready by November 10th, as was expected. It will not be finished before the 1st of February. It represents the Reformer as standing, clad in clerical robes, with his right hand on an open Bible. Its height is thirty feet. The cost, which is to be defrayed by popular subscriptions, will be twenty thousand dollars. Rev. Dr. Seiss, of Philadelphia, will commemorate the occasion by an address before the Luther Society, and there will doubtless be other ceremonies, although their nature has not yet been announced.

The statue of Alexandre Dumas by the late Gustave Doré will be unveiled in Paris at the end of October. It is ready to be placed upon its pedestal, and nothing remains to be done now but to prepare the ground around the monument. This statue is said to be a remarkable work, marked alike by the faults and the genius of Dorés It represents the great romancer seated, in his working costume; he is writing, and the pen seems to be running in his fingers as it ran in life. On the front part of the pedestal is a group of readers; a young girl is reading a passage to a student and a workman, who are listening with rapt attention. The rear of the pedestal is occupied by a figure of Artagnan. There is an interesting series of inscriptions on the work.

The illustrated catalogue of the Milwaukee Industrial Exposition for 1883 is a very creditable affair, for which credit is due to Mr. Wendell Stanton Howard, superintendent of the art department. The same praise may be awarded the illustrated catalogue of the art department of the Cincinnati Industrial Exposition, which is of excellent workmanship throughout.——Cassell & Co. announce "European Butterflies and Moths," with sixty-one colored plates, based on Bergis's "Schmetterlingsbuch," by W. F. Kirby; and "The Holy Land," containing forty-two full-page illustrations, after lithographs from the original drawings by David Robert, R.A., with historical descriptions by the Rev. Dr. George Croly.

THE DRAMA.

OPERA-HOUSE—MME. MODJESKA; ARCH—MR. JEFFERSON; CHESTNUT—"THE SILVER KING."

MADAME MODJESKA brings to her work so fine a sense of congruity and artistic requirement that she lifts her audience into an atmosphere wherein the standards are more exacting, and, as a consequence, the judgments more severe, than in the case

of the average aspirant for histrionic honors. She aims so high that anything less than the most rigorous test seems inapplicable; and hence the critic seeking an attitude of simple judicial fairness finds himself viewing her from a standpoint almost antagonistic. To say that she successfully meets these self-imposed difficulties, is to award her nearly unqualified praise. No one, indeed, who gives close attention to her perfect self-possession and repose of manner can fail to understand that he is in the presence of an artiste to whom a gaucherie is impossible, and who will present a consistently-developed character, even though her conception of it should differ radically from his own. That Madame Modjeska should play such a part as Imogen, argues her perfect confidence in her ability to handle a difficult theme without strain or effort; that she should play it without once sacrificing the exquisite delicacy of her manner, proves how fully she is mistress of her art. For it must be confessed that "Cymbeline" is a play totally unsuited to a modern audience; its inordinate length, requiring the most merciless cutting,-the improbability of its situations, at times bringing its climacterics perilously near to the ridiculous, - and, above all, the indelicacy of its motive, full of unpleasant suggestion,-render it a work which could hardly be tolerated, had it not passed into the position of a classic. But Madame Modjeska has so far overcome these difficulties that no offence is given; the veil of an unaffected modesty of purpose so covers the action that the full import of it is conveyed without shock to the moral sense. This is notably the case in the bed-chamber scene, wherein the utmost nicety of treatment can alone save the situation from broad indelicacy. Yet the situation is so saved, and we derive only an impression of perfect womanhood and wifely honor. The atmosphere is free from taint where-

"The flame o' the taper
Bows towards her; and would underpeep her lids
To see the enclosed lights, now canopied
Under these windows; white and azure, laced
With blue of heaven's own tinct."

And so throughout the art which conceals art serves its purpose well and robs censure of its weapons. In the page scenes, Madame Modjeska's feminine delicacy is especially charming. We recall the late Miss Neilson in these scenes, and it is with her, perhaps, rather than with any other actress, that Modjeska should be compared; the methods are quite similar, though it would seem that the living actress imparts a more natural timidity and shrinking grace to an action which demands the fullest command of artistic powers. In "As You Like It," Madame Modjeska appears to equal advantage, and can be judged by the same standards as in "Cymbeline." When we come to plays of the French school, the case is quite different. The mind instinctively turns towards Mlle. Sarah Bernhardt and a new comparison is instituted. In looking upon Mme. Modjeska's Camille and Frou-Frou, we become conscious that the interpretation is not at all times in accordance with the peculiar genius of the original conception. The individuality is strong, but the method is not the method of the Comédie Française; it lacks the one grain of Gallic salt which rendered Bernhardt really great in plays of the modern French school, and, strangely enough, prevented her from being great in French classical rôles, such as Phèdre. It would be too much to say that Madame Modjeska suffers by this latter comparison; but the comparison becomes more strongly marked, her methods more isolated from those of others. Certain it is that she has made herself mistress of every part in her répertoire, and commands the respect of all admirers of a pure and elevated style.

In looking upon Joseph Jefferson's rendition of the part of Caleb Plummer, the lover of domestic drama has the double satisfaction which a play of perennial freshness and an actor of universal popularity are able to afford. Indeed, we cannot recall another instance in which during a long career adverse criticism has been so completely disarmed. Mr. Jefferson looks across the footlights upon none but friendly faces, and it seems to matter little whether he wears the careless leggings of Rip, or the immaculate white tie of Golightly, or the curl-papers of the agonized Bob Acres; he is forever the same welcome visitor, having an amiable light in his eyes and that peculiar suspicion of a smile at the corners of his mouth which even in his pathos is not entirely absent. It is doubtless owing to these strongly-marked personal characteristics that his creations are not more perfectly differentiated. He has so absorbed the character of Rip van Winkle that the flavor of it is perceptible in everything else which he essays. The outlines of his other parts are therefore not always clearly cut, and this disadvantage, if such it may be considered, is more perceptible in Caleb Plummer than elsewhere, owing to the occasional resemblances which the two characters present. Just what these resemblances are, it would not be easy to say; certainly not those of temperament, age or physical condition. Yet there is something in the quality of the pathos, and in the delightful play and interchange of tenderness and humor which bind the parts together, and we find ourselves half expecting the aged toymaker to drain off a bumper with the pledge: "Here's your goot health, und your families', und may dey all lif long und brosber!' Apart from this ever-present reminiscence, Mr. Jefferson's Caleb is the most perfect and artistic interpretation of the part which has been seen in a long while. He succeeds in maintaining the low-life atmosphere of "The Cricket on the Hearth" without once sacrificing the inherent dignity and lofty power of self-abnegation which make of Caleb a hero. Once or twice, during the scenes wherein he strives to piously deceive the blind girl, the truth and intensity of the pathos are very fine and Mr. Jefferson reaches a really high point in artistic interpretation. To say that the power thus manifested is not quite sustained throughout, can hardly be regarded as dispraise, in view of the necessary conditions of light and shade which regulate the production of any art work. Certainly, he never sinks into commonplace, and he imparts a unity of impression as rare as it is desirable. In selecting "Lend Me Five Shillings" as an afterpiece, Mr. Jefferson has shown a good appreciation of the law of contrast, and provides the opportunity for a satisfactory exhibition of his versatility. Golightly wins our sympathies at once, and his relief at the

providential finding of the loose change seems to be a sentiment in which the audience fully shares. The part is a very slight one for a comedian of Mr. Jefferson's calibre, but serves its purpose excellently well. In both pieces the support is capable and leaves little to be desired.

From the high-bred delicacy of Modjeska and the refined art of Jefferson to the declamatory slang of "The Silver King," the transition is both startling and unpleasant, and the play only demands notice because of its phenomenal success in London and New York. In listening to it one is tempted to wonder what the adapters of melodrama regard as the real purpose and meaning of play-writing. Certainly, neither to point a moral nor to adorn a tale; for in the present instance whatever semblance of a moral may have existed at the outset is lost long before the fall of the curtain, and by no stretch of courtesy can we consider as an adornment the mass of turbid verbosity in which the story is clothed. The best that can be said is that the play is perhaps equal to the average of its kind, though distinctly inferior to "The Lights o' London," to which it has been compared. It has just one very strong situation,-that in which Denver, recovering from the effects of chloroform, stumbles over the dead body of the man he had sworn to kill, and becomes panic-stricken as his mind yields to the hallucination that he has somehow accomplished his purpose. We can feel how the blood must ebb back upon his heart as he gazes on the stony stare of the dead eyes; but even then our thoughts revert to the murder of Nancy Sykes, and we reflect how splendid an opportunity the authors, Messrs. Herman and Jones, have here thrown away. As a matter of fact, they do not once rise to the level of the occasion; they are incapable of embodying in fitting language a really good conception. Nor is the reason far to seek. "The Silver King" is to all intents and purposes an adaptation of Paolo Ferrari's "Il Suicidio," and though it may come to us as a purely original composition we cannot avoid the consciousness that its want of unity is due largely to the effort to fit an Italian theme to an English mould. As presented at the Chestnut Street Theatre, the play has every external advantage; the mounting is excellent; the cast good. Especial credit is due to Mr. Walter Bentley, who plays the leading part, for his effort to remedy the shortcomings of the dramatists, and so make of Denver a fine creation. In this effort he is, perhaps, as nearly successful as anyone could hope to be; but the inherent faults of the piece lie too deep to be removed by anything short of a

MUSIC.

HE libretto of Ponchielli's opera of "Gioconda" is based on Victor Hugo's "Angalo" Other recent Y. " gelo." Other recent Italian operas are: "Donna Ines," by Luigi Ricci, which was recently performed at the Politeama of Piacenza, and which had a fair success; "Romilda di Saluzzo," by Adolfo Baci; "Marion Delorme," by Ponchielli, who is said to be now setting to music a still later one, entitled "Janko," libretto by Enrico Panzacchi; "Amazilia," by Antonio Palminteri, which is to be performed this season at the Teatro del Conte, Milan; and "Fernando della Cruz," by Generoso

The prospectus of the Mapleson Italian opera season at the New York Academy of Music promises, in addition to the old-time repertoire, Gounod's "Romeo e Giulietta," with Mme. Patti and Signor Nicolini as Giulietta and Romeo; Gounod's "Mirella," with Mme. Etelka Gerster in the title rôle; Rossini's "La Gazza Ladra," with Mme. Patti as Ninetta; Weber's "Oberon," with Mme. Pappenheim as Rezia; Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore," with Mme. Gerster as Adina; and Ricci's "Crispino e la Comare," with Mme. Patti as Annetta.

Mr. T. B. Pugh's star course season will commence on Monday evening, October 8th, with a concert to be given by the New York Symphony Orchestra of seventy-five performers, with Dr. Leopold Damrosch as the musical director. Miss Emma C. Thursby will sing October 11th, supported by the Germania Orchestra. Another concert, by Mme. Etelka Gerster and other artists from the Mapleson Opera Company,

The oratorio, "Luther at Worms," text by Wilhelm Rossman, music by Meinardus, first performed in 1873, is in rehearsal in more than twenty German cities (among them Berlin, Wittenburg, Erfurt, Eisleben, Bremen and Halle), for performance during the Luther jubilee.

Ernst von Wildenbruch furnishes the text for a Luther cantata to be performed at

'The "Proceedings" of the Musical Association (London,) for the past season have just been issued. The volume contains papers and verbatim reports of the discussions on the following subjects: "On the Fallacy of the Repetition of Parts in the Classical Form," by Ferdinand Praeger; "Practical Suggestions on Vocal Culture," by G. N. Carpozzi; "Musical Æsthetics," by Eustace J. Breakspeare; "The Vocalion," by Baillie Hamilton; "Some Practical Bearings of the Study of Acoustics upon Music as an Art," by James Turpin; "Musical Coincidences and Reminiscences," by G. A. Osborne; "Woman in Relation to Musical Art," by Stephen N. Stratton; and "On the Velocity of Sound in Air," by D. J. Blaikley.

Herr Gustav Memmler, a new tenor, has just made a brilliant debut at the Hamburg Theatre in the part of Tristan. He is said to be superior to Herr Winkelmann, his predecessor in that part at Hamburg.

Johannes Brahms has left Vienna, where he has lived for many years, and has taken up his residence at Wiesbaden.

NEWS SUMMARY.

FOREIGN-The visit of King Alfonso of Spain to Paris on the 29th ult, was attended with disgraceful disorders. The crowd hooted and hissed the King, crying: "Down with the Uhlan King!" The soldiers and police had great trouble in keeping order. The houses and balconies along the route traversed by the King were thronged with people. As soon as King Alfonso appeared at the railway station, the

crowd made so great a clamor that the national anthem, which was being played by a band, was almost inaudible. The clamor continued in all the streets through which the cortège passed, and insulting cries directed at the King were continually raised.

—The German newspapers regard the insults heaped upon King Alfonso in Paris as a moral defeat of France. No power, they say, would now wish for an alliance with her. The insults to the Spanish king were in their opinion more directly aimed against Germany, who considers them a sign of weakness. — King Alfonso arrived at Madrid on the 2d inst., having summarily cut short his French visit. The Queen went to the Escurial to meet the King, whom the Cabinet Ministers, civil and military officers, and many Deputies and Senators, welcomed at the station. On the arrival of the train, loud cheers were raised. Their Majesties proceeded to the palace in a carriage unescorted. They were surrounded and followed by a great mass of people. The plaudits continued along the whole route of the procession to the palace.—A ministerial crisis in France is declared imminent, growing out of the Spanish troubles. It is stated that the Cabinet has submitted to President Grèvy several documents showing that M. Wilson abused his position as the son-in-law of the President. It is asserted that M. Wilson favored the agitation against King Alfonso. He is also charged with having supplied his journal, the Petite France, with inspired public news matter before it was published in the Fournal Officiel. — The great monument and statue of "Germania" was unveiled on the 28th ult. at Rudesheim, on the Rhine, in presence of the Emperor William, the Crown Prince, the German princes Rhine, in presence of the Emperor William, the Crown Prince, the German princes and princesses, the mayors of Hamburg, Bremen and Lubeck, nearly every prominent civil and military officer of the Empire, representatives of each division of the German army, and over two hundred thousand people. The total cost of the statue was more than one million marks (about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars). The inscripto an one million marks (about two nundred and fifty flousand dollars). The inscription on the monument is: "In memory of the unanimous and victorious rising of the German people, and the re-establishment of the German Empire,—1870-1."

The hearing of O'Donnell, the assassin of Carey, was continued in London on the 28th ult., and the prisoner ordered to stand committed for trial at the next session of the central criminal court.——The steamer "Rotterdam," from New York, September nath for Rotterdam, and which is ashore on the Banjaard coast of Holland, has broken in halves.——The French Legation at Hué, Tonquin, is guarded by marines from the naives.——In e French Legation at Flue, I origin, is guarded by marines from the fleet. The Anamite Government has sent out orders to the military mandarins dis-banding all the Anamite troops who have given in their adherence to the French authorities. — A Papal decree regulating procedure before the civil tribunals of the Vatican was published on the 2d ult. The degree ignores Italian law, and ordains that all contracts between any portion of the Pope's household and parties outside shall be regulated solely by Pontifical law. — At the trial at Geneva on the 1st ult. of the Misses Booth and Charlesworth, and four other members of the Salvation Army, for Misses Booth and Charlesworth, and four other members of the Salvation Army, for disturbing the peace, they pleaded in defence that they simply obeyed the dictates of their conscience. The public prosecutor demanded that they should be sentenced in accordance with the law. The accused persons were found not guilty, and were discharged from custody. — The London Times of the 2d ult, gives a report from the Upernavik correspondent of a Copenhagen journal that Lieutenant Greely, of the American Arctic expedition, was murdered by a mutinous crew. The report comes from Hans Hendrick, an Esquimaux with Dr. Nathorst. Hendrik says that he got the news from an Esquimau at Cape York. The Times considers the report improbable, as Dr. Nathorst has never mentioned it. — Marquis d'Harcourt, a distinguished French diplomate, died at Paris on the 2d inst., aged 79.

DOMESTIC.—The Democratic State Convention in Buffalo on the 27th ult. resulted in harmonizing the Tammany Hall and Irving Hall factions. The following ticket was in harmonizing the Tammany Hall and Irving Hall factions. The following ticket was nominated: Secretary of State, Isaac H. Maynard; Attorney-General, Dennis O'Brien; Comptroller, Alfred C. Chapin; Treasurer, Robert A. Maxwell.—The Maryland Republican Convention in Baltimore on the 27th ult. nominated Hart B. Holton, of Baltimore County, for Governor by acclamation. Dr. Washington Smith, of Dorchester, was nominated for Comptroller, and R. Stockett Matthews, of Baltimore, for Attorney-General, both by acclamation also. An Associated Press despatch of the 1st inst. says it is understood that Mr. Matthews will decline the nomination for Attorney-General his professional engagements requiring all his time. eral, his professional engagements requiring all his time.——The Democratic State Committee of Massachusetts has received a cable despatch from Frederick O. Prince, Committee of Massachusetts has received a cable despatch from Frederick O. Prince, positively refusing to accept the nomination for Lieutenant-Governor of that State.

Town elections were held on the 1st inst. in Connecticut. The returns show that the Republicans have carried a majority of the towns, making gains on their vote of last year.

—The town of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, on the 1st inst. voted for the second time to reject a city charter, the majority against it being four hundred.

—The Protestant Episcopal Diocesan Convention of New York on the 27th ult. elected Rev. Dr. Potter, of Grace Church, to be Assistant Bishop and successor of his uncle, the present Bishop, Horatio Potter.

—In Barnum's circus at Milwaukee, on the 28th ult., a tiger caused a panic by escaping from his cage and rushing wildly around. He was finally lassoed, just as he was about to spring into a crowd of people.

—Three hundred women voted at the school election in Binghamton, New York, on the 28th ult. Three years ago, when they first exercised the privilege, they polled only forty-seven votes.

Ex-United States Senator Merrimon was on the 28th ult. appointed by Governor Jarvis, of North Carolina, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of that State.

The readjustment of salaries of postmasters of the Presidential classes, just completed by the Post-Office Department in accordance with the act of March 3d, 1883, affects The readjustment of salaries of postmasters of the Presidential classes, just completed by the Post-Office Department in accordance with the act of March 3d, 1883, affects the salaries of 2,176 postmasters.——The Post-Office Department has just had its attention called to an ingenious method of raising the figures of the new postal notes. The plan consists in punching from a high figure in the note a piece of paper of the proper shape and size to fill up the hole previously punched by the postmaster through a lower figure. The written words or figures are then removed by acids, and blank filled in to correspond with the punched figures. Some of the notes have been changed so skilfully that it is very difficult to detect the alterations.——The reduced rate of postage went into effect on the 1st inst., meeting with much approval.—
The coroner's jury in the case of Rose Ambler, at Stratford, Connecticut, rendered the following remarkable verdict on the 1st inst.: "We find that the said Rose Ambler came to her death by being choked to death at the hands of some person or persons to the jury unknown. But from William Lewis's relation to her in the past, and from his testimony and from his conduct since her death, and from the evidence, we think suspicion points toward him."——Two passenger trains on the West Shore Railroad on the 1st inst. collided near Fort Plain, New York, and a smoking car was wrecked. Michael Lyons, of Utica, engineer, and James Whitlock, of Ephrata, a passenger, were killed. Twenty other passengers were injured, one perhaps fatally.——The explo-Michael Lyons, of Utica, engineer, and James Whitlock, of Ephrata, a passenger, were killed. Twenty other passengers were injured, one perhaps fatally. — The explosion of a building of the California Powder Works, near Pinole, California, on the 28th ult., killed forty Chinamen and one white overseer, blowing them to atoms. The works employ altogether twenty whites and one hundred and twenty five Chinamen. All the men killed were in the mixing room, where the explosion took place, and nothing can be known of the cause. — From three to four inches of snow fell in Northern New Hampshire and Vermont on the 2d inst. — The fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of organized anti-slavery work in New York City, and of the formation of the New York Anti-Slavery Society, was celebrated on the 2d inst., the Pittsburgh and Western — At the State Department in Harrisburg on the 2d inst., the Pittsburgh and Western

Railway Company and the Pittsburgh, Bradford and Buffalo Railroad Company were granted the privilege of consolidation, under the name of the Pittsburgh and Western Railroad Company, with a capital of \$7,250,000.——A despatch informs us that representatives of Free Trade organizations throughout the United States met on the 2d inst. in convention in St. Louis. Ex-Governor Phelps opened the convention, and several delegates spoke in favor of a "Northwestern and Mississippi Valley Free Trade League." A committee of organization was appointed.——The New York Court of Appeals at Albany on the 2d inst. rendered a decision in the Hatch-Williams cases versus the Western Union Telegraph Company, reversing the decision of the General Term and affirming the judgment of the Special Term, in favor of the Western Union Company. The decision establishes the legality of the \$15,526,590 stock issued upon the merger of the Atlantic and Pacific and American Union Telegraph companies with the Western Union, and removes the obstacles to the payment of dividends.——The Pittsburgh Exposition Building was burned with all its contents on the 3d inst. The loss is very heavy.——The one hundredth general convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States began its sessions in Philadelphia on the 3d inst. Bishop Clark, of Rhode Island, preached the opening sermon.——Charles Magarge, a well-known paper manufacturer, died in Philadelphia on the 1st inst., aged 79.—
Judge J. R. Kidder, member of the Dakota Supreme Bench, and who had been Territorial delegate from Dakota in Congress, and Lieutenant-Governor of Vermont, died ritorial delegate from Dakota in Congress, and Lieutenant-Governor of Vermont, died at St. Paul, Minn., on the 2d inst., aged 67.——Rear-Admiral Joshua R. Sands, U. S. N., died in Baltimore on the 2d inst., aged 89.

DRIFT.

A visitor to the workshop of Mr. Bartholdi's statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World," in Paris, says the work is finished as far as the neck. The various pieces are made, and fastened into their places by the means of bolts. All are very large. "Imagine one of the curls of fair Liberty's head," says the visitor, "to be three times as large as yourself,—no matter how big you are; and this false hair is lying around as promiscuously as the false hair of some American beauties."

—Mr. D. W. Judd, in notes of travel in the far Western States and Territories published in the American Agriculturist, says: "The cheap lands are rapidly being taken. There will be none left at the end of five years' time, if they are absorbed as rapidly as they have been during the past five years. You must move quickly if you secure any more farm lands on Government grants, or at three, four and five dollars an acre from the railroads. First go out and explore the country before purchasing and taking your family with you. Explorers' tickets are still furnished by most of the railroads which have lands to sell. Take little baggage and few heirlooms with you. It costs money to transport them to the far West. Be sure and locate in a healthful locality. One after another, individual cattle ranches of Colorado, Dakota and Wyoming are being absorbed by large companies. Vast sums have been invested by locality. One after another, individual cattle ranches of Colorado, Darota and Wyoming are being absorbed by large companies. Vast sums have been invested by Englishmen in these companies. An acquaintance who during two trips rode with us through Wyoming not long ago sold his cattle and his ranche on the Sweet Water to an English party for one hundred thousand dollars cash. This acquaintance, Tim Foley by name, has since invested this one hundred thousand dollars in and around Leadville, Colorado, and is now worth five hundred thousand dollars."

Leadville, Colorado, and is now worth five hundred thousand dollars."

—At the Library Congress lately held at Liverpool,—most appropriately, for nowhere is a free library more thoroughly appreciated,—Mr. John Lovell, an eminent newspaper man, read a paper on "The Functions and Operations of the Free Library System," in which he said that the Act for England was passed in 1850. In 1853, the Irish and Scotch Acts were passed. All three Acts were amended in 1854-5. Yet by 1871 no fewer than thirty-six communities having an aggregate population of 3,528,9-6, had established free libraries. In Bradford, the library, though founded, was not opened. From the others the records were incomplete. The remaining thirty-two libraries contained 623,110 volumes, and in a single year had supplied books to 3,802,443 readers. In other words, the annual issues were over one per head for the whole population covered by the system. Instead of thirty-six, there were now one hundred and thirteen communities which possessed free libraries. The aggregate population of these communities was 7,710,780. Striking out the places from which returns were incomplete or from which there were no returns atall, the number of communities was reduced to seventy-nine, with an aggregate population of 5,755,615. These seventy-nine possessed among them 2,344,736 volumes, and their annual issues ran up to 9,024,983, so that since 1871 the population covered by the free library system had more than doubled; the books contained in a little under two-thirds of the libraries had been quadrupled. The issues gave nearly two per head of the population of the sevents of ries had been quadrupled.

The issues gave nearly two per head of the population, instead of slightly over one.

It would be interesting to learn from the experience of every individual reader in what way and to what extent his mind and his life had been affected by the books which the free library system placed at his disposal. No doubt, the literature most in demand was fiction. He had a little table in which he had apthe literature most in demand was betton. He had a little table in which he had appended to twelve fairly representative towns the percentage which the issue of novels bore to the gross issue of books of all other kinds. The lowest gave fifty-six, the highest seventy-seven, per cent. The largest town and the smallest manufacturing, agricultural, cathedral and university towns had all been drawn into the net of the Free Libraries Act. Acts like these showed that the free library system had already met a universal and public want.

COMMUNICATIONS. STEAM BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN:

IN No. 164 of your journal, page 388, I note some remarks on steam boiler explosions in which it is said. "A boiler is a said." A boiler is a said. in which it is said: "A boiler in the best condition, and which has passed the most searching examination, may be exploded by bad management." This is undoubtedly true, and if left without further comment would be unanswerable; but the article continues as follows: "The most ordinary way to do this is to let the water fall so low that a considerable part of the metal heating surface becomes red hot. When water is turned in upon such a surface, steam is generated with such rapidity that its expansive force becomes irresistible." Do you get this information from any experiments tried by Professor John F. Frazer? In Vol. 53 of the present series of the Journal of the Franklin Institute, you will find on page 135 the account of an experiment witnessed by Professor Frazer, he being a member of the committee of which I was the chairman conducting the experiments at the boiler works of the late Mr. Joseph Harrison, Jr. In this case, a boiler with a pressure of one hundred pounds per square inch, and with a hot fire under it, was blown out until empty, and the boiler allowed to stand empty exposed to the fire for three minutes, at the end of which time (not told in the report,) a pine stick pressed against the shell of the boiler was ignited by the heat

of the boiler shell. Into this presumably red-hot empty boiler cold water was forced with a result expected by all who stood near to the boiler, and who knew that the entire amount of metal contained in a boiler, if heated red hot, would not contain heat enough to cause any trouble of the kind you mention. Pumping the cold water in made no steam pressure, and when the boiler was finally filled in the heated condition it took thirty minutes to get up steam to the original pressure. In Vol. 63 of the same journal, on page 269, you will find the account of experiments tried at Altoona, Pa., by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, October 7th, 1868. In this case, a locomotive boiler was submitted to the same test, blowing out the water until the level of the water was below the crown-sheet of the fire-box, and allowing time enough to heat the crownsheet red hot, and then when water was pumped into the heated boiler the same result was obtained as mentioned in the case of the Harrison boiler. The specific heat of boiler iron is so low that there is no ground to consider the generation of steam in an undue rate possible from the sudden contact of little or much water. It may be that at one time Professor Frazer did teach the doctrine you hold; but I am very sure that at the latter part of his life, when I was much in communication with him in the consideration of this subject, he certainly did not. I write this to you as I fear that your reference to the late Professor Frazer in the article mentioned will lead your readers to ascribe the low-water idea to him. Very truly, yours, COLEMAN SELLERS.

PHILADELPHIA AND THE NATION.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN

HAVE hailed you from Broad Street; so allow me to take your arm for a stroly down that fine thoroughfare on this bland autumn morning. If we keep on southward, we shall come within sight and hearing of League Island, a sort of doughnut-shaped plat of ground near the mouth of the Schuylkill River, taking its name from its distance from the southern boundary of Philadelphia as originally laid out. This League Island for a full century was the adopted gunning ground for our edible wild birds, especially reed-birds, swamp blackbirds, river ducks, etc.; but within a dozen years past it has been lifted into eminence as the United States navy-yard on the Delaware River. This mention may remind us that for a full century the Philadelphia Navy-Yard was situated on a lot commencing at Front and Federal Streets, and having a front on the river. Here some of the finest vessels of the nation were built, under the superintendence of Charles Penrose and Samuel Humphreys, two brother chips and good workmen. This property on Front Street cost about thirty thousand dollars when taken possession of, a hundred years ago, and when it was sold a few years since brought nearly a million of dollars to the Government.

Some twenty-five years ago, our late accomplished townsman, Professor A. D. Bache, pointed out this League Island as the proper place for the Navy-Yard, and in due time it was secured and offered to Congress by our authorities through Mayor Henry. After several years' consideration, the national Government consented to take it, provided additional surface were given on the mainland. So we "threw in" the northern shore of the back channel as since enclosed, and almost thanked Congress for its grudging acceptance. But as we are still virtually on the spot let us look steadily at this new navy-yard. The stars and stripes are floating there to insure the favored superintendent his allotted salary, but all the remaining scene speaks of desertion, if not devastation. In the morning's news we find the name of our king of old iron, Mr. A. Purves, bidding in "monitors" as scrap metal. And while we pause I hear the ominous "tweet, tweet," of some stray reed-birds looking toward their former territory. I present this as a sample of the "national" treatment of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, September 27th. PENN, JR.

FINANCIAL AND TRADE REVIEW.

THURSDAY, October 4.

HE stock market, which had been steady and stronger for some days, has again been attacked in the "bear" interest, the Northern Pacific shares being the object chiefly of the raid. The range of quotations, it will be seen by the figures below, is generally lower than a week ago. There is, however, no material change in the situation, and public confidence in it is shown by the stiffly-maintained prices for dividend-paying stocks. The flow of specie is more decidedly in the direction of this country, and several arrivals of gold have been reported. The supply of money continues large, and rates of use are easy.

The following were the closing quotations of principal stocks in the New York market yesterday, compared with those of a week ago:

							October 3.	September 26
							6634	6734
							511/2	531/2
ande								2814
on,							106	10634
nna	and V	Vest	ern,				1201/	1211/8
							301/	31
								1023/8
								4934
								8334
								973/8
non.								126
								1151/8
ontin	ental.						49 14	5534
								38 56
								102 1/2
							26	28 5%
							881/	893/8
							20 1/2	2158
								33¾
								79%
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The following were the closing quotations of leading stocks in the Philadelphia market yesterday, compared with those a week ago:

				October 3.	September 26.
Pennsylvania Railroad,				59 14	59
Philadelphia and Reading Railroad,			4	25 5%	25 1/2
Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co.,				451/2	4434
Lehigh Valley Railroad,				70	70
Northern Pacific, common, .				3134 6014	35
Northern Pacific, preferred, .				60 14	657/8
Northern Central Railroad, .				56	55½ bid
Buffalo, New York and Pittsburg, co	mr	non,		117/8	12
North Pennsylvania Railroad, .				68	67 1/2 bid
United Companies of New Jersey	Ra	ilroad,		194	1911/2 bid
Philadelphia and Erie Railroad,				17	17 bid
New Jersey Central,				801/2	81 1/8

The following were the closing quotations of United States securities in the Philadelphia market yesterday:

						Did.	ASKCU.	
United	States	41/2s, 189	I, registe	red, .		11334	114	
United	States	41/2s, 189	r, coupon	, .		11334	114	
United	States	45, 1907, 1	registered	, .		120	1201/	
United	States	45, 1907,	coupon, .			120	12014	
United	States	3s, registe	red, .			10034	1011/	
		currency				129		
		currency				130		
		currency				132		
		currency				135		
United	States	currency	6s, 1899,			135 1/2		

The New York banks in their statement on Saturday last showed that the surplus reserve had further decreased, and was then but \$874,825. As these statements, however, do not show the precise bank condition on the day of their issue, but simply the averages of the week, it is considered probable that the surplus reserve was nearly or quite exhausted on Saturday, and that the total reserve by the statement to be issued this week will be shown to be under the legal limit. The Philadelphia bank statement on the same date showed an increase in the item of reserve of \$666,990, in national bank notes of \$18,451, in due from banks of \$426,532, in due to banks of \$124,523, and in deposits of \$747,706. There was a decrease in the item of loans of \$189,384, and in circulation of \$25,268. The Philadelphia banks reported \$5,255,000 loaned in New York.

The export of specie from New York last week amounted to \$382,387, of which but \$35,000 were in gold. The import of specie at that port was \$710,860. This

week, there have been further arrivals of gold, the steamships "Rhein," "Fulda" and "Normandie," which arrived on Saturday and Monday, bringing \$425,000 from Ger-

The October reports of the Board of Agriculture of Ohio give the following estimates of the crops in that State: Wheat, 25,508,396 bushels, against 45,450,000 last year; oats, 27,214,066 bushels, against 19,956,000 last year; corn, 68,000,000 bushels, against a yield last year of 90,869,000. The next crop report will not be given until December 1st, when the final estimates on corn and potatoes will be made.

Concerning several phases of the discussion of the Northern Pacific Railroad's affairs, the Philadelphia North American of this date mentions the fact that no interest of the road, except \$166,032 on the Missouri division and Pend d'Oreille division bonds, comes due until January 1st, and that therefore discussion of any imminent default is absurd; and then adds: "It is reported on Third Street that the Northern Pacific can borrow five thousand dollars more per mile at five per cent. on a consolidated second mortgage. This would give it \$9,770,000, which is probably as much as it would need for that portion of the floating debt not incurred for new equipment. The debt incurred for that purpose will probably be put into the form of a car trust. Many of the stockholders, however, are naturally opposed to the creation of any more mortgages ahead of them, and the consent of two-thirds of the preferred stock is necessary thereto. But in view of the splendid prospects of the Northern Pacific, if it can get new equipment enough for its business, the opposition of the stockholders is not so logical on second thought as it is natural on first sight. If the bankers' syndicate will take the car-trust bonds, provided it can get a second mortgage for the rest of the floating debt, the stockholders should be told so plainly. They are not generally disposed to factious opposition, here at least. The bankers naturally refuse to lend on a debenture bond at as low a rate as they will take on a second mortgage."

The Philadelphia Ledger of this date says: "The money market continues easy and substantially without change. Call loans are quoted at four and five per cent., and first-class commercial paper at five and six per cent. In New York, for commercial paper the quotations are: Sixty to ninety days' endorsed bills receivable, six per cent; four months' acceptances, six and six and a half per cent; and good single names, having four to six months to run, six and seven and a half per cent. Yesterday, in New York, call money loaned at two and three per cent. all day."

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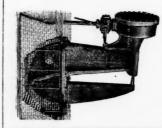
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